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KICK-ASS 2
MARK MILLAR
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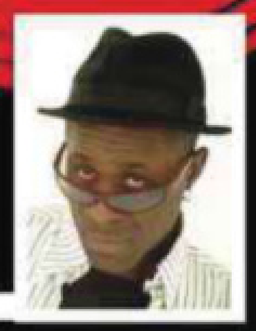

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Editor's letter

WEIRD INK!

Hello again! Couldn't resist another blast of weirdness from the world's greatest magazine, eh? Well, don't just stand there shivering. Come on in...

SEE PAGE 24

Although every magazine in the world seems to be obsessed with tattoos these days, we're immensely proud here on ***Bizarre*** to regularly feature the weirdest, wildest and most original ink on the planet. Unlike most magazine buyers, ***Bizarre*** readers defiantly shirk boring tribal designs and unimaginative flash to create their own works of body art, whether it be **THE MAN WITH AN EYEBALL TATTOOED ON THE BACK OF HIS HEAD** (**p24**), or the amazing images ***Bizarre*** readers have submitted this month for the **YOUR BODY ART** section (**p32**).

Bizarre loves tattoos just as much as you do, and we want to use the magazine to showcase the most innovative and striking ink. So don't just sit there! Check out the contact details on the right, and send us clear, crisp photos of your incredible designs. Who knows? If we like your flesh work enough, we might choose to feature it in the magazine. And if we do, you'll win **ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.**

SEE PAGE 71

Elsewhere this issue we're incredibly proud to feature interviews with two of our heroes. On **p64** you'll find a feature on ***Bizarre***'s favourite band, **THE TIGER LILLIES**, fresh from creating two new albums and accompanying live shows. And, as if that wasn't enough, comic legend **MARK MILLAR** has returned to ***Bizarre*** to talk about his incredible new graphic novel, **KICK-ASS 2** (**p71**), which is just as funny, touching and violent as its predecessor. Go buy it!

SEE PAGE 64

If you're hungry for more sick treats, check out our sexy feature on **ACTION GIRLS** (**p48**), a peek behind the scenes at London's weirdest venue, **THE LAST TUESDAY SOCIETY** (**p78**), and all the amazing stuff you can squander you cash on in our expanded reviews section, **THE SQUEALER** (**p93**). But do you have the guts to look at this month's **PHOTO ASSAULT**? It starts on **p6**, and this month it features a particularly nasty selection of pictures. Don't say we didn't warn you...

Stay sick!
Dr Blackthorn

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HOW CAN I GET IN *BIZARRE*?

MODELS

If you're an alt.model looking for a break, sign up to *Bizarre*'s **ULTRA VIXENS**. It's the easiest way to have your photos featured in *Bizarre*, and you'll be in with a chance of appearing on the cover – you need to be a member so that we can see your pics! Check out Ultra Vixens on **p40**, and sign up online at **UltraVixens.net**

READERS, ARTISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND EVERYONE ELSE...

If you want to appear in *Bizarre*, get in touch with the team – including Auntie Den, who runs the YourBizarre section (see **p27**) – using the following methods:

POST Send your mail to *Bizarre*, Blackthorn Communications, PO Box 59844, London SW14 9BH

EMAIL Email **Bizarre@blackthorncommunications.com** or contact Auntie Den directly at **Auntieden@blackthorncommunications.com**

TUMBLR Share your photos and get featured in *Bizarre* by logging on to **Your-bizarre.tumblr.com**

FACEBOOK Just search Facebook for 'Bizarre magazine' or type **Facebook.com/bizarremagazine** into your browser

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If you subscribe, you can claim three issues for just £1 by following the link below and entering the special code you'll find on **p91**

Dennismags.co.uk/bizarre

If you take advantage of this special offer, you'll not only get three issues of *Bizarre* for £1 – you'll also receive a **FREE** Ben Dover's Hard Drive vibrating love ring, that's guaranteed to add a little extra buzz to your sweaty bedroom games! And if you choose to continue your subscription, you'll receive a staggering 23 per cent on the magazine shop price. **It's the deal of the century!**

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EDITED BY TOM BROADBENT

PHOTO ASSAULT

THE WORLD'S MOST EXTREME CLOSE-UPS!

LOVELY BONES

AUSTRIA These painted skulls are just a small selection of the 1,200 craniums on show in the eerie Beinhaus, or 'bone house', in the Austrian village of Hallstatt. The Beinhaus was established in the 12th century AD because the local cemetery had become overcrowded, and cremations had been outlawed by religious leaders across Medieval Europe. After 10-15 years in a normal grave, the bodies of the dead were exhumed to make room for new internees, and their bones were cleaned and left in the sun until they were bleached ivory white. And in a similar way to how the living leave flowers by the side of a grave to pay their respects to the dead, many of the skulls in Hallstatt were painted with elaborate designs before they were finally laid to rest.

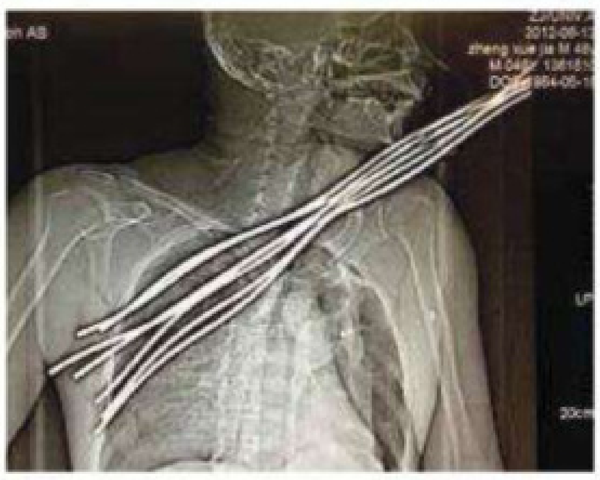
PICTURE: REX FEATURES

PHOTO ASSAULT

THE WORLD'S MOST **EXTREME** CLOSE-UPS!

BACK PAIN

CHINA When a steel rod cutting machine malfunctioned on a building site in Shuangxi Town, in China's southeastern Fujian province, it fired out steel bars at a terrifying speed. Unfortunately, a migrant worker simply known as Zheng was standing in the way, and a cluster of the rods penetrated his back. Fortunately the metal bars narrowly missed Zheng's vital organs, but his ordeal was far from over. Unable to treat his wounds, local doctors shipped Zheng off to a hospital in the nearby city of Quzhou, Zhejiang province – but when doctors there discovered they were also unable to help him, Zheng was transferred again to a university hospital in another neighbouring city. Doctors and firemen in Hangzhou spent 13 sparky minutes cutting off the sections of rod that were protuding from Zheng's back, and later surgeons spent five hours removing the remaining fragments that were left inside his body. Miracuously, although Zheng is still in hospital, he's expected to make a full recovery.



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THE WORLD'S MOST **EXTREME** CLOSE-UPS!

FACE ACHE

CHINA Tang Shuquan, pictured here in the city of Chengdu, Sichuan province, holds the Guinness World Record for making the world's most twisted face. Although gurning contests are a rural tradition in England that date back to 1267, Tang is said to be the first person in the world who can fold the tip of his nose under his lower lip – a rubbery feat that puts his British rivals to shame. As part of his Guinness triumph Tang was awarded $10,000 (£6,450), but the 43-year-old street performer says he'll give $15,000 (£9,680) to anyone who can "out-ugly" him.

PICTURE: CDSB/CHINAFOTOPRESS/PA PHOTOS

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CANNIBAL VICTIM

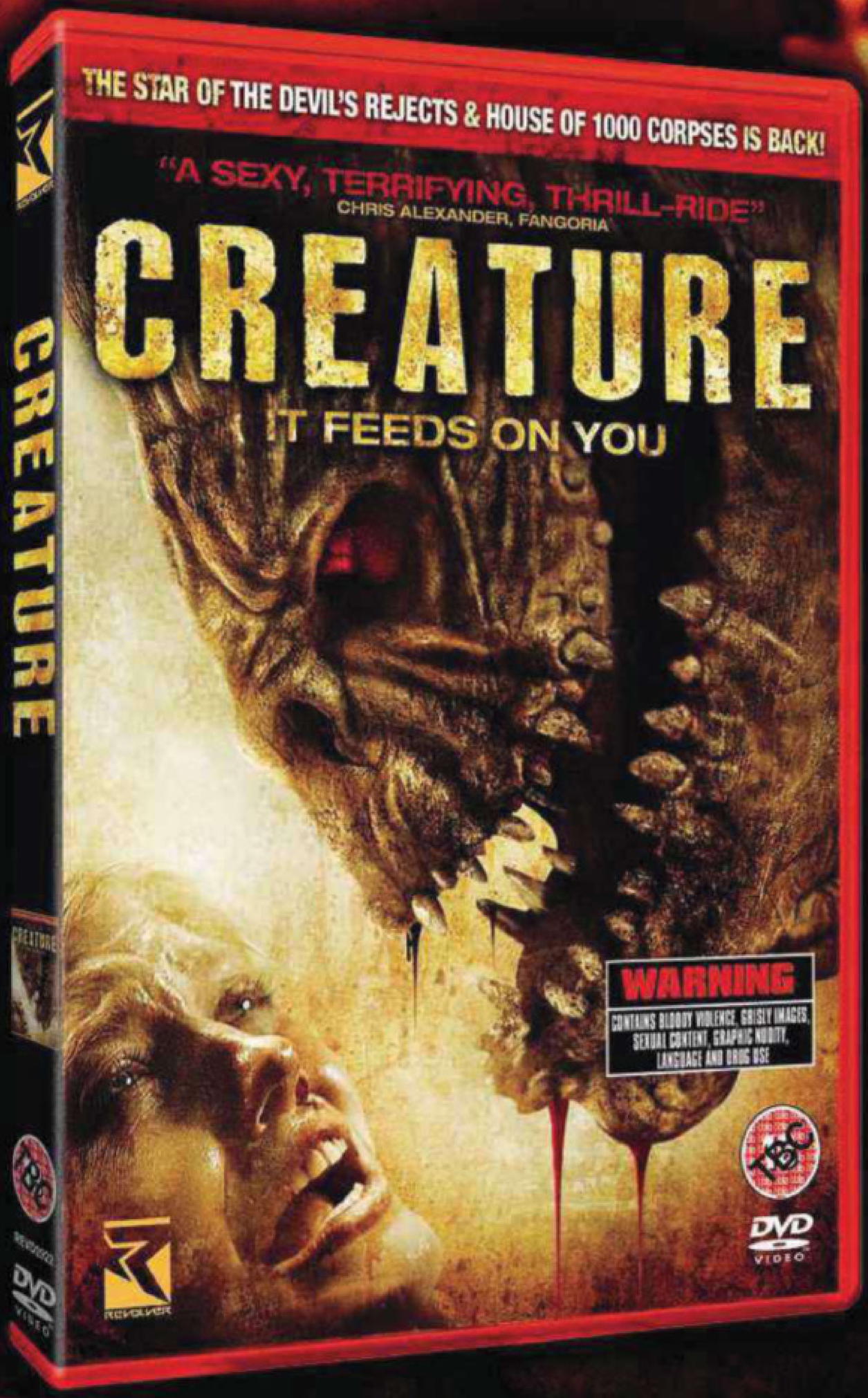
USA Although the macabre case of Rudy Eugene – who chewed an elderly vagrant's face off during a bizarre attack in Miami in May – has become an internet sensation, this grisly photograph shows the aftermath of his rampage. Eugene attacked Ronald Poppo, 65, as he slept under a railway bridge, repeatedly punching the pensioner and biting his face. After an 18-minute ordeal, police finally arrived to help Poppo, but not before the Miami Zombie had chewed off the top portion of the old man's face, and gouged out his left eye. Eugene – who's been nicknamed the Causeway Cannibal after the MacArthur Causeway road where the attack took place, and was off his head on drugs during the attack – was shot dead at the scene, but left his victim disfigured and in desperate need of expensive facial reconstruction surgery.

PICTURE: MCT/LANDOV/BARCROFT MEDIA

WARNING:

CONTAINS BLOODY VIOLENCE, GRISLY IMAGES, SEXUAL CONTENT, GRAPHIC NUDITY, LANGUAGE AND DRUG USE

"GORY AND UNDENIABLY SCARY"
CHRIS ALEXANDER, FANGORIA



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A SYMPHONY OF FLESH!

Body mod musical showcase in exciting new London venue

IF YOU'RE HUNGRY FOR A TRULY alternative night out in London, *A Symphony Of Flesh* on 17 August is just the ticket.

Created by performance group the Aesthetic Meat Front (AMF), *A Symphony Of Flesh* is a show that combines body modification and experimental music to create what the organisers call "public deprogramming rituals". And as this is a one-off UK performance, you'd better grab your tickets before they all disappear.

"Today, we 'civilised' people have become disconnected from our true nature," says AMF founder, Louis Fleischauer, who'll be familiar to *Bizarre* readers for his stunning creations for AMF Korsets. "The intent of AMF rituals is to create a raw, primal energy that takes people on a journey into the carnal dreamscape of their mind, so that it can reopen a channel to the 'pristine self' within them."

Although Fleischauer first experimented with the *Symphony Of Flesh* concept in 1998, it wasn't until 2006 that the first show took place in Los Angeles. And as *Symphony* has now been staged at body art events across the world, visitors to the London show in August are in for a subversive treat.

"We're going to be turning humans into musical instruments through body modification, and transforming the agony and euphoria on the stage into energy to be devoured by the audience," says Fleischauer. "Using sculpted leather creations that are mounted onto the performer with hooks, wires and other devices beneath the skin, we will be transforming humans into sonorous organisms.

"During the performance, through exhaustion and pain, the performers enter a trance-like state of mind," Fleischauer continues. "This is a cathartic experience, and it's shared with the audience in the form of sound, as the pressure from the hooks pulling their skin is translated into amplified vibrations. For the ritual to be effective, any barrier between the stage and audience must be destroyed. People are encouraged to participate, and join the orchestra of flesh by playing amplified devices attached to the performer."

"We create a raw, primal energy"

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

A Symphony Of Flesh is being staged in a new London venue called The Flying Dutchman, which is aiming to promote difference, diversity and the arts, and is the perfect hang-out for *Bizarre* readers in the capital.

"Recently, I've witnessed an increasing number of friends travelling to Berlin to catch the latest cutting-edge exhibitions, parties and performances," says Antonio Mori, founder of The Flying Dutchman. "One of our goals is to showcase the best of the underground scene, and Berlin is an obvious place for inspiration.

"We want to create a venue with a special focus on contemporary art and extreme alternative art/body modification. We also want to host exciting events that are kinky and inclusive, and where issues of gender, sexuality and identity can be explored in a tolerant and safe environment.

"The Flying Dutchman is a space where people can pursue their own projects and seek collaborations, and be given free reign to create events based on what they're most passionate about. We're not there to serve a particular subculture – our guests, like our events, flow between the boundaries of queer, arty, fetish, body mod, goth and so on."

Tickets for *A Symphony Of Flesh* are only £9 and are available from Flyingdutchmanlondon.com and Facebook.com/flyingdutchmanlondon. Stay tuned to these sites to find out what other exciting stuff is happening at the venue

The images above were taken from *A Symphony Of Flesh*. The other pics show typical scenes from a night out a The Flying Dutchman. Count us in!

MAIN PHOTO: KAREN HSIAO; PERFORMERS: KELLIE LAPLEGUA, LOUIS FLEISCHAUER
PHOTO IN CIRCLE: BARTOSZ SARAMA; PERFORMERS: JEANELLE MASTEMA, LOUIS FLEISCHAUER

THE GRINDER

WARNING!
NEVER TRY THIS AT HOME!

BODY MODIFICATION CAN BE DANGEROUS. ALWAYS CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL

ROT ALL ABOUT IT!

New issue of the *The Zombie Times* is out now!

Zombie Ed is down with the sickness

FACT: *BIZARRE* READERS LOVE zombies. And if you sick puppies want to be first with all the latest undead news, make sure you sign up for *The Zombie Times*!

Billed as "the world's only zombie newspaper", the *The Zombie Times* is a free publication that's sent out to 13,000 subscribers, and is packed with rotting news and features. "We include all the latest information about upcoming zombie events, zombie movies, appeals from filmmakers who need zombie extras, and so on," says its founder, Zombie Ed. "*The Zombie Times* started out several years ago as two sheets of A4 paper, but is now a 24-page e-zine that's sent out six or seven times a year."

The August issue of *The Zombie Times*, which should be available by the time this issue of *Bizarre* hits the shops, features details on the undead films making an appearance at this year's *Frightfest* horror film festival in London, along with details on upcoming zombie walks, the first listings for Halloween events, and loads more.

But *The Zombie Times* isn't just a newsletter – it also runs events that are sure to send zombie fans into a shuffle of excitement. "We run two main events – *Zombie Fest*, which we're taking a break from this year, and the *UK Festival Of Zombie Culture*, AKA *Day Of The Undead*, which will be taking place in November," says Ed. "We're currently confirming films and guests for the event, and we're also looking into the possibility of a live zombie shooting arena. But we're not quite sure if our venue, Phoenix Square in Leicester, will want its walls smeared in blood and entrails!"

To sign up for *The Zombie Times*, email Sammy@terror4fun.com with 'I Eat Flesh' in the subject line. And be sure to stay tuned to Terror4fun.com for more undead goodness

We thought zombies ate brains, not paninis... um?

"Live long and prospereeeeuuughhhhhhhh!"

PICTURES: GRACE ELKIN AND GEN D

WIN! TICKETS FOR BLOODSTOCK 2012!

ENTER OUR COMPETITION AND YOU COULD BE ROCKIN' IN DERBYSHIRE

LISTEN UP, METALHEADS. WE'VE GOT two pairs of tickets to give away for this summer's hottest festival, *Bloodstock Open Air*. And entering couldn't be easier...

This year's *Bloodstock* independent metal festival – which takes place in the town of Walton-on-Trent in Derbyshire, from 9-12 August – features a line-up to kill for. As well as eardrum-shattering headliners Machine Head, Behemoth (right) and – gasp! – Alice Cooper, the festival is also playing host to most of *Bizarre*'s favourite bands, including Testament, Sepultura, Dimmu Borgir, Hatebreed and Paradise Lost.

The second stage – which is dedicated to Sophie Lancaster, who was murdered in Lancashire in 2007 for dressing as a goth – also features a stunning line-up including Orange Goblin, Viking Skull and Alcest, and the New Blood Stage is playing host to the hottest new bands such as Reign Of Fury and Shattered Skies. And if you're still hungry for thrills, you can check out the late-night metal karaoke, The Bloodstock Arms festival bar that serves real ale, fairground rides and loads of other amazing attractions.

If you want to be in with a chance of winning tickets, just send an email to **Bizarre@blackthorncommunications.com** with the word BLOODSTOCK! in the subject line. We'll randomly choose two entries from our inbox on Tuesday 7 August, and notify the winners via email.

See the full festival line-up at Bloodstock.uk.com

A dress from *There's No Business Like Show Business*

Monroe wore this outfit during 'Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend', in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*

This creation is from the dream sequence in *The Seven Year Itch*

As Rose Loomis in Niagara, Monroe worked this hot-pink frock

SOME LIKE IT HOT!

Luscious latex dedicated to 1950s sex-bomb

THIS AUGUST MARKS THE 50TH anniversary of the death of Marilyn Monroe, the 1950s silver screen icon who starred in famous flicks such as *The Seven Year Itch*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and *Some Like It Hot*. And to mark the occasion, British latex specialists Anatomic Bomb have created a new collection based on the actress' most iconic costumes.

The Marilyn Monroe Latex Collection features rubber interpretations of classic costumes worn in films such as *Bus Stop*, *The Misfits* and *Niagara*, with prices ranging from £30 for a Marilyn Monroe Cummerbund to £470 for the elaborate Marilyn Monroe Tiger Dress.

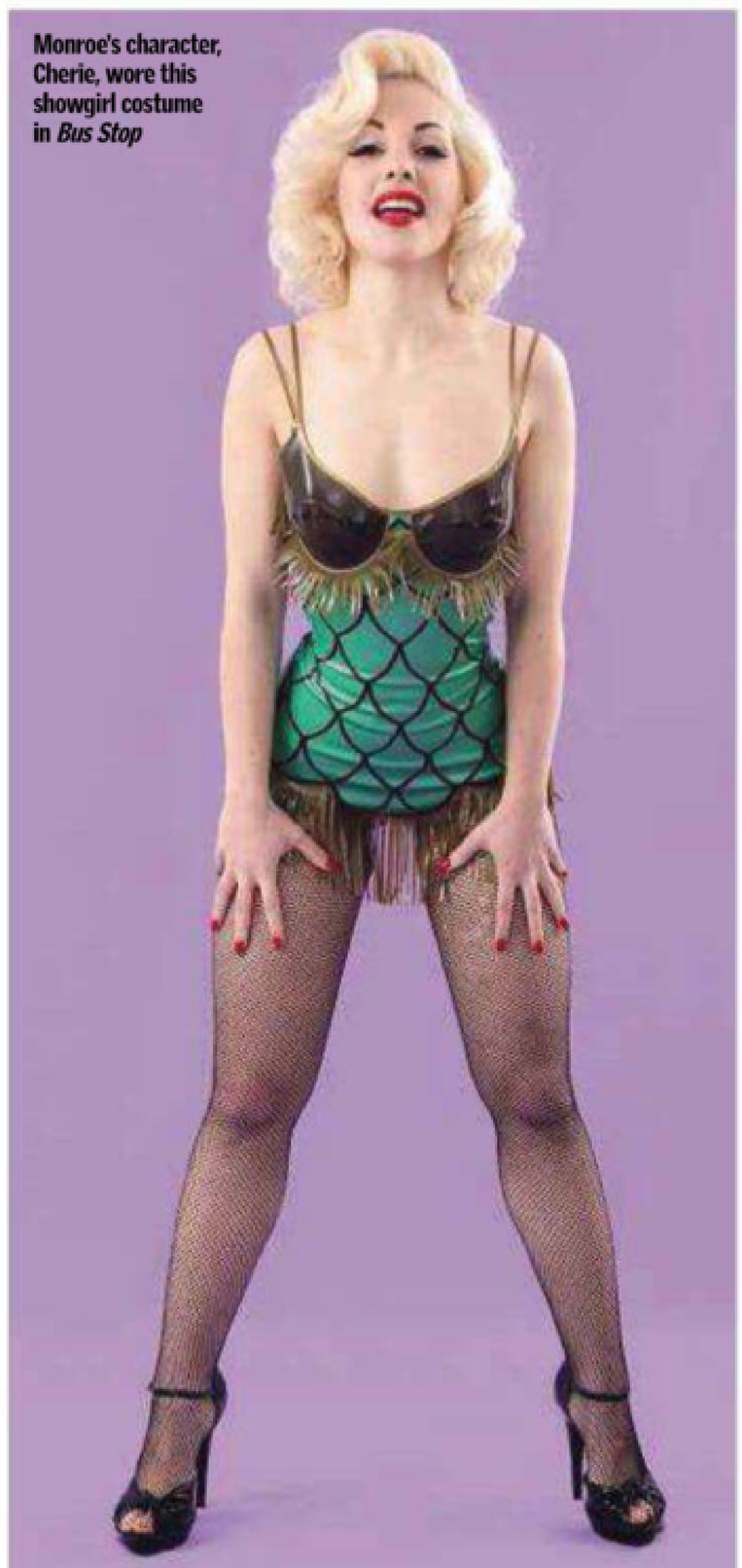
"I love movie costumes, and often wondered what it would be like to replicate some of the pieces I love in rubber," says Madeline Warren, founder of Anatomic Bomb. "When working on these costumes I watched Marilyn's movies over and over again, firstly to choose the best outfits to copy, and also to study the clothes in more detail. If only all work and study was so enjoyable!"

But even though the Anatomic Bomb costumes are instantly recognisable, and will delight fans of 1950s fashion who are looking for something edgier, creating this collection presented its own unusual challenges. "When you look closely at Marilyn's clothes, you'll discover that you never see her cleavage, which was a real surprise to me," Warren says. "During the era she was working, a woman's cleavage was considered rude and unattractive. American costume designer Travilla claims that Marilyn had the best breasts in the business – not because they were big or pert, but because they were far apart. In those days people used tape to lift and separate the breasts, as this was considered more beautiful. So we had to go against our usual cleavage-enhancing approach to create these costumes!"

Despite its kinky edge, Anatomic Bomb's new collection has proved a hit with long-time fans, and even the presidents of established Marilyn Monroe fan clubs have endorsed these rubber homages. "People appreciate how the designs are close to the originals, yet with a modern, alternative slant," Warren says.

See more and order your Marilyn outfit by taking a trip to Anatomicbomb.com

The iconic white dress from *The Seven Year Itch*



Monroe's character, Cherie, wore this showgirl costume in *Bus Stop*

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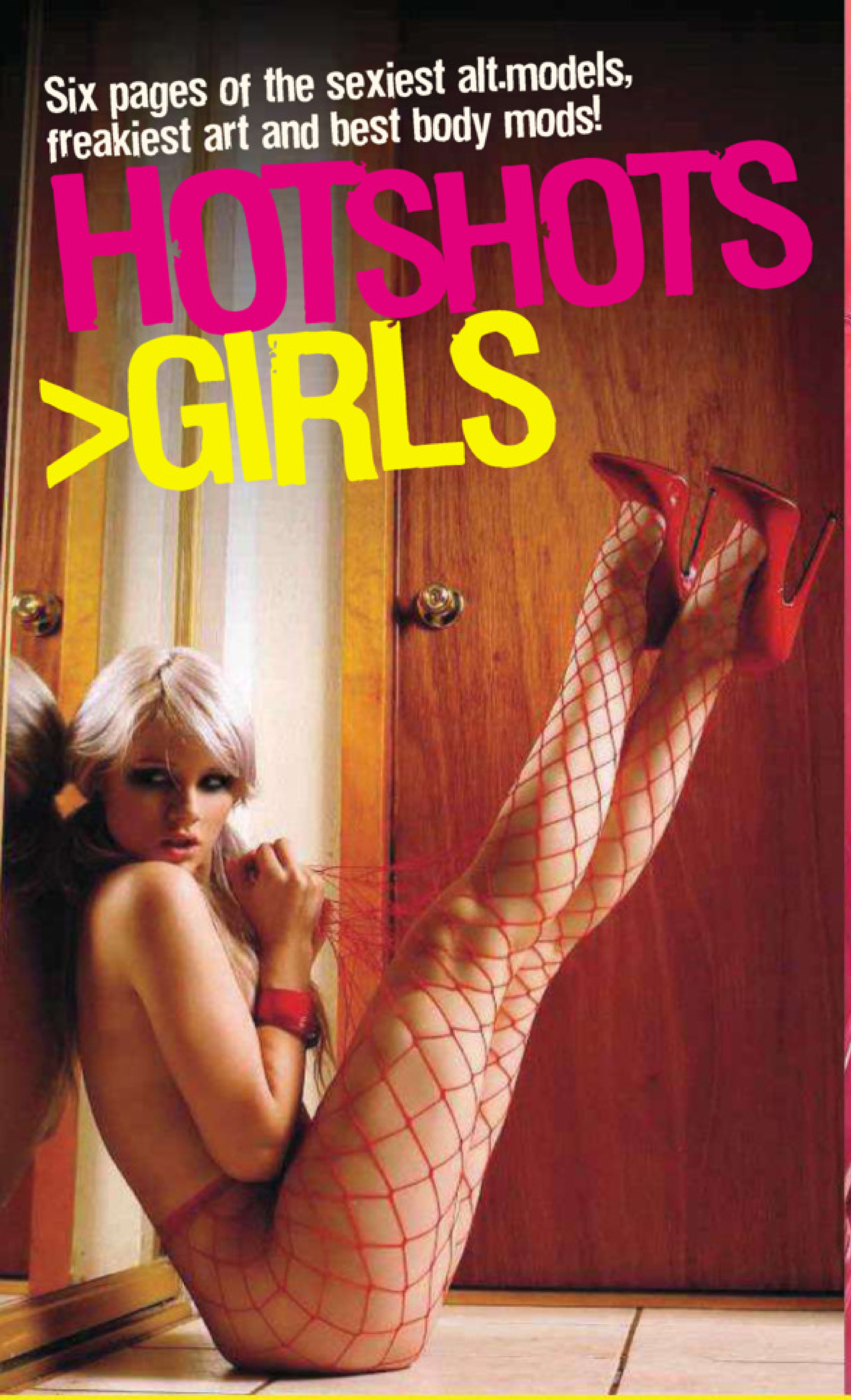
LADIES' (BLACK) L M S

Six pages of the sexiest alt.models, freakiest art and best body mods!

HOTSHOTS >GIRLS



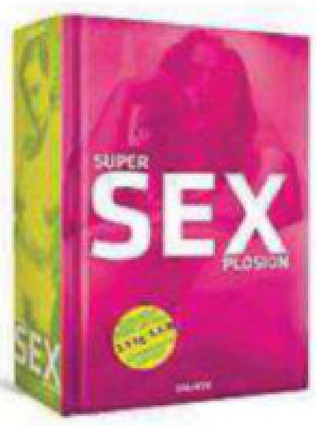
HARDBACK = HARD FRONT

Erotic photography publisher Goliath's mammoth new 15th anniversary book, *Super Sexplosion*, weighs in at 2.5kg of dynamite spunk!

If you're a kinky photographer or an alt.model looking for a sourcebook jam-packed with inspiring shots, or simply a salivating pervert after the hottest thing to grace your coffee table since a really fucking scorching cafetiere of Java, then get your gummy mitts on *Super Sexplosion*.

This hardback collection of Goliath's best smutty shots from the past 15 years features themes ranging from chicks frolicking naked in forests to women rubbing their bare shirt potatoes on hash plants in illegal marijuana farms. And at 2.5kg, it weighs the same as 4.7 average adult ferrets!

See if you can spot the following filthy images amid its 816 pages:



- A hottie in knee-high, tight-laced leather boots straddling a rudimentary mud-caked toilet in an farm outhouse
- A policeman about to shove a traffic cone up a be-thonged model's bunghole
- A Barbarella lookalike wearing spacesuit nip covers
- A blonde hiding her shaven punani behind a mug of steaming tea
- Masuimi Max wearing a cowboy hat while splashing around in a tin bathtub, in a barn full of straw and wagon wheels
- A skipping rope being used as a bondage tie
- A honey in a filthy shower cubicle (they really need to get that grout redone) sucking a rubber duckie
- A redhead sitting on a large, upturned aluminium funnel in a professional kitchen
- A super-short girl riding on the back of a super-tall girl
- Strange goings-on involving a trap door, a vacuum hose and a mousetrap
- A beauty strapped to a tree trunk with clingfilm
- Mosh using Martini glasses as bra cups
- And finally, a lady masturbating with an antique trumpet. PARP!

Super Sexplosion costs £39.99, from Goliathbooks.com

THE GRINDER

PICTURES: COPYRIGHT OF GOLIATH PUBLISHING

storemags.com

I KNOW WHAT YOU D

Bizarre meets Allison Sommers, who paints pets, pests, pestilence, innards-as-outtards, and the world's sickliest sausages. It's Sommerstime, and the living is queasy…

WORDS **ALIX FOX**

Sometimes, Allison Sommers' surreal canvases feature hectic, crammed'n'crammed compositions reminiscent of Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch. In others, she suspends a sparse image against a smooth, flat, smoky-coloured gouache (opaque watercolour paint) background. Her creation of strange atmospheres is similar to the works of French painter Yves Tanguy, and there are definite nods to Salvador Dalí in her latest work. You may even spot a hint of Francis Bacon in her pictures… although that might just be a scrap of raw meat.

"My canvases often feature meat, along with vegetation, birds and beasts, all interacting in deliberately complicated, intricate, vague and uncomfortable ways,"

"I give personalities to objects"

Sommers reveals. "There are hints of stories behind the scenes I show, but I never provide clear artist-authorship to guide my viewers through what they're seeing. I like both the concepts and the morality of my pieces to remain ambiguous, and thus discomforting. You'll often find humanoid animals though, or inanimate objects that I've given personalities; I grew up as an only child with an abundance of pets, and it gave me a rather skewed sense of personhood."

THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL

From personhood to neighbourhood, Sommers is based in Brooklyn, and works in a studio that she claims is "a total mess – strewn with grubby utensils and cups of coffee and tomato juice and broth, and always with the radio playing; I can't stand silence because it makes my ears ring".

She's even started listening to the static in between stations while she works, which she does every single day, whether it's for hours on end or just a few minutes. "I've recently become a lot more experimental with my paintings, letting them evolve and change as they go," Sommers reflects. "I've learned to trust more in the opacity of gouache, and its brilliant layering capacities."

'The Yanks Are Coming!'

In other words, if Sommers paints a detail that she later decides looks wonkier than a boxer's nose reflected in a funhouse mirror, gouache provides exactly the right medium to cover it up and start afresh without making a canv-ass of the whole piece. Not that she always paints on canvas: at present, Sommers is filling a collection of vintage British matchboxes with tiny hidden pictures instead.

"The matches have such inspirational names, like 'Valiant', 'Cheetah Fight' and 'Fire King'," she enthuses. "Other current sources of inspiration include pigeons – pigeons upon pigeons! – and a little jar of powdered graphite I bought from an art store, which has such disaster potential… I'm almost afraid to open it because I fear the compulsion to throw it around the room may be too great. There's also been a little death in my life recently, which I'm working through in my sketchbook drawings. It keeps popping up."

GOT BEEF WITH BEEF?

As joints, chops, and hot dogs appear so frequently in Sommers' carnivorous compositions, it's a surprise to learn that she's a veggie. How would she feel about visiting a slaughterhouse? Would she be artistically enraptured to see how the patties of pork in her images come to exist, or would it make her more nauseous than a decaying-mouse-scented quadruple-loop roller coaster?

"I'm on the fence about that," she muses. "Visiting an abattoir would upset me most highly, but I'd undoubtedly get some intense ideas for my paintings."

But if Sommers could create an 'art sausage', what mind-stimulating meats would she stuff it with? "It'd be a magical sausage that tasted of slimy cotton candy, and caused the eater to see the outlines or suggestions of genitals in all the everyday objects around them, no matter how hard they try to shake the impression," she says.

Bangers that make you see wangers? Form an orderly BB-queue, readers…

See more at Allisonsommers.com and Allison-sommers.tumblr.com

SUMS WITH SOMMERS

A quick word association game, revealing how thoughts add up in the artist's head

Sexy + funny = "Slippery folds, like intestines, are sexy; seeing dogs' assholes in places where they shouldn't be is funny"
Midnight + feast = "Peanut butter from the jar"
Recurring + dreams = "I always dream about people altering my bicycle without my consent"
Picture + storybook = "These words instantly make me think of tiny dick-headed mushrooms, for some reason…!"

PICTURES: ALL IMAGES ARE COPYRIGHT OF ALLISON SOMMERS

ID LAST SOMMERS!

'Schlachtengemaelde'

Storemags.com

>BODY MODS

HINDSIGHT

Want eyes in the back of your head? Call tattooist John Anderton!

WORDS **ALIX FOX**
PHOTOS **JOHN ANDERTON**

"I got into tattooing because I had some bloody rubbish ink done in a parlour down South when I was in the army," laughs 27-year-old John Anderton, who now heads up Nemesis Tattoo in Seaham, County Durham. "When I left the forces, I decided to get it sorted out with some skilful cover-ups, and it got me thinking about what's possible with tattooing as an art form. I began to teach myself, found I had flair, and then got myself a spot in a studio about a month or so later."

John's mentors observed that he had a particular knack for realism, and that eyeballs were one of his favourite themes. "I was fascinated with drawing designs incorporating eyeballs early on in my career," says Mr Anderton (who's *almost* an agent from *The Matrix*...). "There's so much scope for adding unique details, such as reflections, tears, different iris colours and expressions. They're something all sorts of people can relate to when they see them, and as a result I've had all manner of different clients request that I tattoo eyes upon their skin."

SMUDGE SMUDGE, WINK WINK

One such client was fellow ink-slinger David Dardis, from Manchester, who requested a single, giant Cyclops eyeball – smack-bang on the back of his skull. "David already had a small pair of eyes etched at the base of his head, but he wanted me to place a huge, wide-open eye covering the entire back of his scalp," John recalls. "He was happy for me to follow my instincts as to what shades would look best, so I sketched a rough outline on his skin using a Sharpie marker, then got to it, using Eternal Inks and a Cheyenne Hawk Thunder machine loaded with a 27-point magnum cartridge of needles (a magnum is a set of needles arranged in two rows). For the white highlights at the end, I used a different gauge of needle."

Despite the pain, John says David was chilled out about the whole process. "We talked about all sorts of random crap while I worked – I have a strange sense of humour!" he laughs. "I like to stick my iPod on shuffle while I tattoo, so we listened to metal bands such as Necrophagist, Black Dahlia Murder and Lamb Of God, plus a bit of Skrillex, some classical Chopin and a sneaky slice of Jessie J!"

This was the first time John had tattooed anyone's scalp, so he recommended his standard aftercare treatment: rubbing in a mixture of nappy rash cream Bepanthen and moisturising cocoa butter lotion. He also advised David not to shave his head until the tattoo had completely healed.

You've gotta hand it to John – he's got an eye for detail!

ANDER-TONNES OF INK

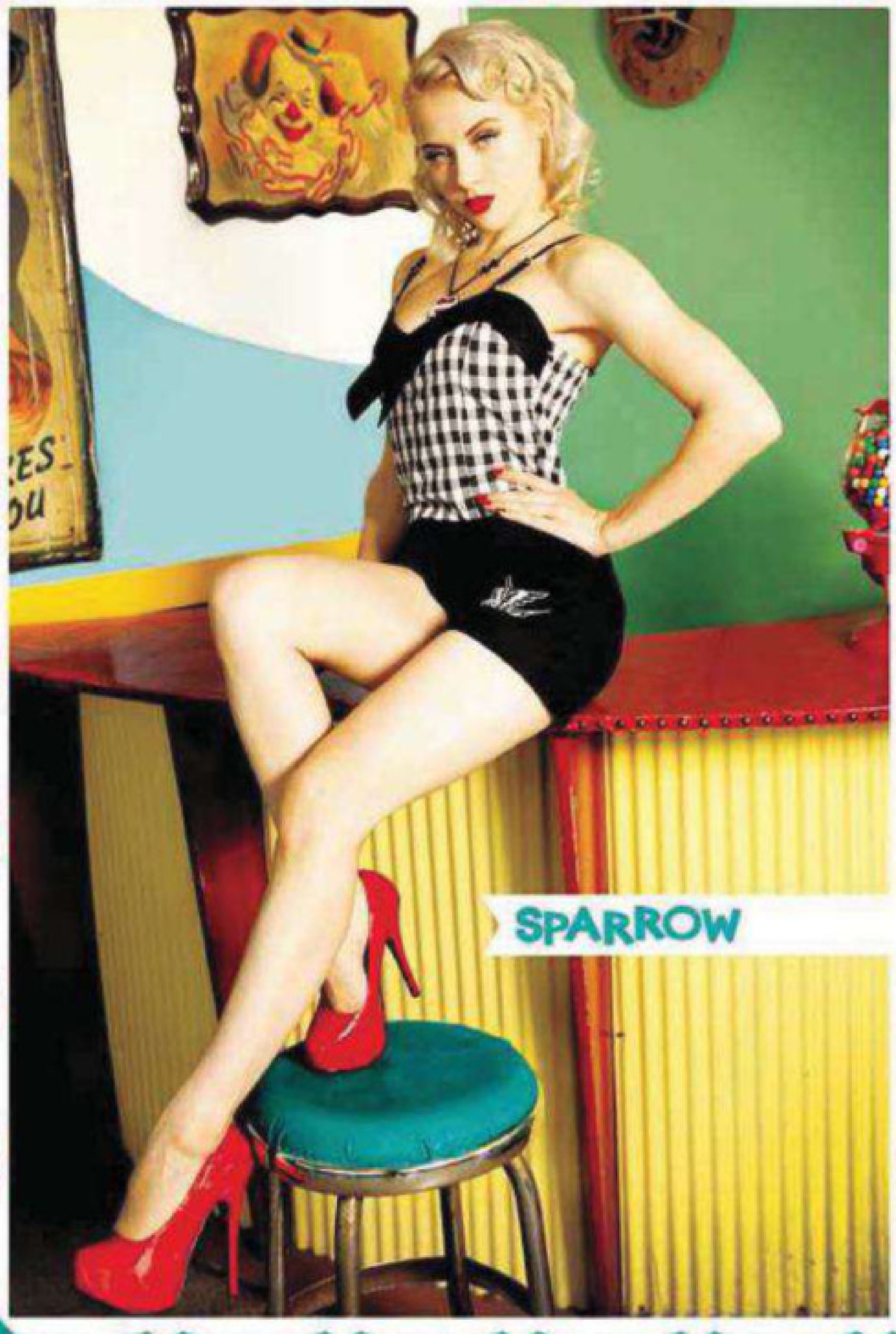
While John is talented at rendering realistic designs, he likes to mix them up with more graphic pieces to stop himself getting bored. His future plans include making a DVD demonstrating his techniques (which will only be available to registered tattoo artists, natch), and expanding his own ink collection.

"The best work I have on my own body is by Leah Moule of Birmingham's Spear Studio, Mat Lapping of Inkwerx Tattooing in Hull, and Tanane Whitfield from Studio Evolve in Virginia, USA," says John. "I have an awesome piece on my ribs by Jen Jen Maw who works with me at Nemesis – it's not finished yet because I had to take a break from the intense agony! – and I've just started having an illustration added to my skin by Bez of Triplesix Studios, Sunderland, who had a major influence on me a couple of years ago."

John would also love to get inked by *Bizarre* favourite Jesse Smith, Timmy B, Kelly Doty and Lianne Moule (give 'em a Google to view their galleries, if you're not familiar with their work). Phew! That's a whole lotta pigment he hopes to get injected! John's appearing at the *London Tattoo Convention* in September, so if you spot him there, give him a hug – just be gentle embracing the rib area...

See more at Nemesistattoo.co.uk

John Anderton inked this incredible Cyclops eye on fellow tattooist David Dardis



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THE BAD TOUCH

Ultra Vixen **Lauren Lascivious** reveals her orgy fantasies on p44!

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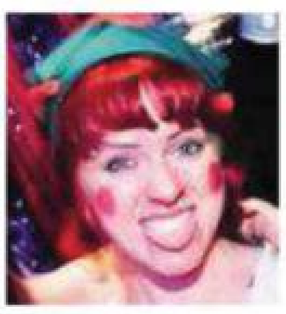

RANT AT US AND SEND US SHIT!

Bizarre's own Auntie Den loves nothing better than knocking back a tankard of gin and poring over your news of debauched nights on the town, weird shop finds, perverted confessions, psychotic art, retina-wrenching ink, and daily bowel movements.
Auntie Den's favourite submissions will make it onto these hallowed pages!

BIZARRE Junk mail

zzzzz!

POSTAL ADDRESS:
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EDITED BY AUNTIE DEN
AUNTIEDEN@BLACKTHORNCOMMUNICATIONS.COM

SEND US YOUR STUFF!

A wince-worthy entry from Bizarre's 2011 Clash Of The Tatts competition

SIMPLY THE BREAST

Bizarre readers, we need your help! But first, cast your eyes over Missy Poison, Nancy Roxx, Miss Pinky Boo and Kitty Candy (below)! Like what you see?

These four alternative models came together to shoot a set of incredibly hot pictures to raise money for the Breast Cancer Care charity.

A massive 'thank you' to Adrian Pini studios, which donated six hours so that six photographers could work nonstop with the girls, to create a bundle of amazing images. Prints are available to buy for a staggeringly reasonable £5! Please contact me via my Facebook page to bag yours!

See Facebook.com/Priscilla.ribeiro.319
Priscilla Riberio, by email

Calendar girls

Ricky must be a cocky chap to get this inked!

Dumpstar!

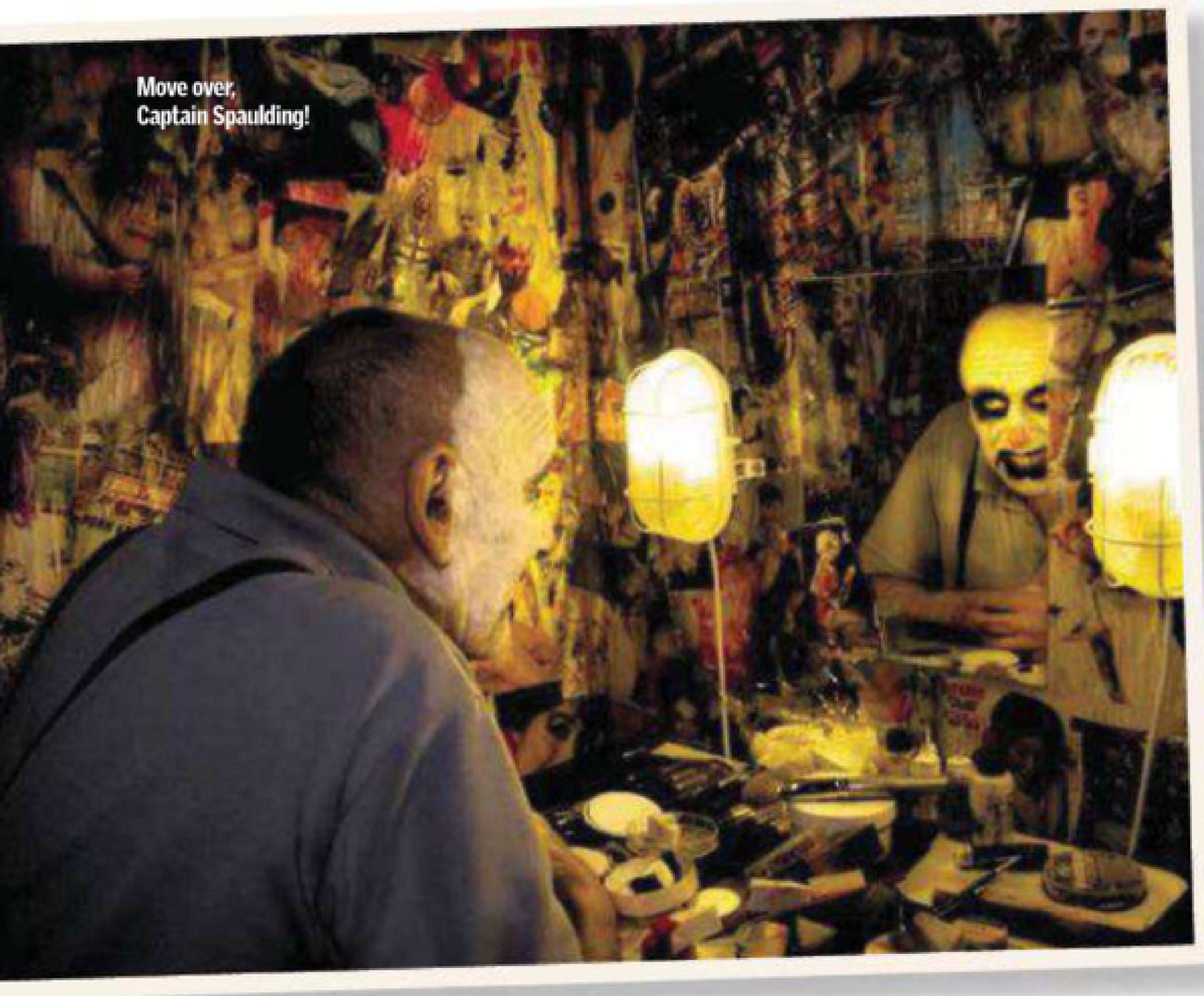
CHICK WITH A DICK

I missed out on entering my ink for your Clash Of The Tatts 2011 competition, but I wanted to show it to you guys anyway (above). I work at Tattoo-A-Go-Go in London, and I did this tattoo on myself!

Ricky Williams, by email

Auntie Den says: "What with the cock-banana, the sliced penis on the chopping board (above, left) – done by your very own Katie at Tattoo-A-Go-Go – and the winner, Princess Diana with a member hanging from her mouth by Woody, we had a good wang theme for last year's ink comp. You would've fitted right in! Let's get our own Junk Mail cock contest going. If you have a penis tattooed on your person, or know someone who does, send us a snap and we'll print the winning weiners!"

StoreMags.com


Move over, Captain Spaulding!

CLOWNING AROUND

This image (above) is from a series I took for a college project called *The Clown*. I covered the walls of my set with pages from various magazines, but mostly pages from *Bizarre*.

Divinechaosart, via Tumblr

Auntie Den says: "Hello, hello, hello, is that a page featuring our high-calibre, 'quick relief' sex line ads on the right-hand side?"

HIPPY CHICK

Last year you published a photo of the scar I had after my hip was replaced. I recently had to have the metal hip removed because there was a nasty infection in it. The combination of that surgery, and a pressure ulcer in the same place, resulted in the mess you can see in the photo (below), which was taken by the medical photographer in the hospital! Reading *Bizarre* kept me entertained while I was stuck in hospital for three weeks. I'm now attached to a 'negative pressure wound therapy' machine that sucks the gunk and blood out of the wound while it heals.

I thought you guys might like this pic!

Miki, by email

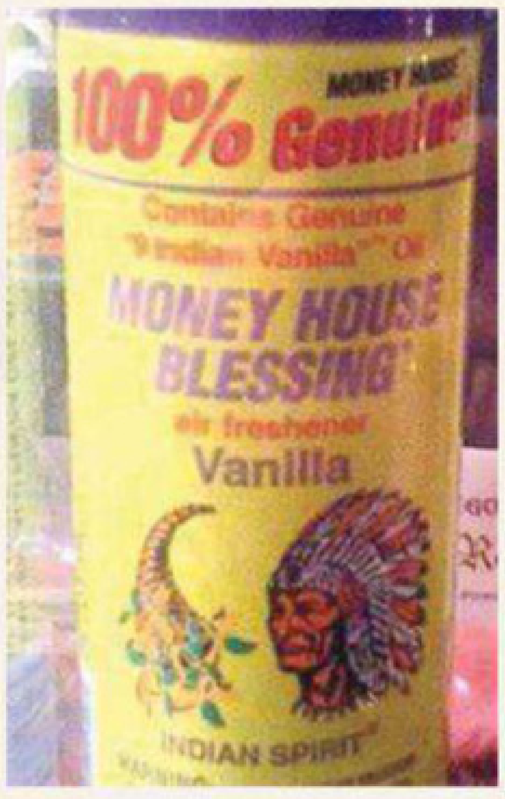
Auntie Den says: "You got a nasty, infected, fist-sized hole in your hip, and you thought of us? This makes me very emotional. I've been checking out readers' burns, scrapes, cuts, gashes (yes, those ones, too), broken bones and weeping sores for far too long, now, but your offering takes the pus-filled biscuit. I won't ever look at a dollop of Eton Mess in the same way again.

"Miki, you're a trooper, and everyone here at *Bizarre* wishes you a speedy recovery."

Anyone fancy some spaghetti carbonara?

YOUR PLOP FROM THE SHOPS!

Keep spending your hard-earned cash on crap, and we'll keep printing pictures of it! Email photos to: Auntieden@blackthorncommunications.com



PAYS TO SPRAY

The way the UK's economy is going down the shitter, I need all the help I can get, so I've invested in this Money House Blessing air freshener. The idea is that you give your house a few blasts of the stuff and the coins come rolling in. Plus, it comes with a vanilla-scented Indian Spirit guide, which is pretty good value for money.

Jack Pott, Somerset

HEAVY METAL

Check out these whoppers! I'm not sure which body part they're meant to dangle from, but they'd make bloody sturdy doorknockers.

Robin Cooke, Banbury

ALF CALL HOME

I'm sorry, but it's a fucking ALF PHONE! How utterly cool is that? I loved the (American sci-fi) show when I was a kid, and would've happily slit my familys' throats to have one of these!

Fran Rica, by email

CRUDE COOKIE

I don't think I have to go to any lengths to explain the reason why I think this profane, jam-encrusted biscuit is awesome. Only a 'cunt cake' could top this, or maybe a nice, satisfying penis popsicle.

Dark Fairy, London

Winnarrrrrr! Naomi poses with Phil at his Brighton studio, Magnum Opus

TATTOO WIN!

Last year, I entered the *Bizarre* competition to win a tattoo by *London Ink*'s Phil Kyle, and I won. I'm now the proud owner of a fantastic bit of ink!

I'd already collected a few images centred round a dark, Day Of The Dead theme I had in mind. After discussing them with Phil, I headed down to his Brighton studio in April to see what magic he'd drawn up for me. I'd seen Phil's custom work before, and his interpretation of my ideas was fantastic! I've only ever had black ink, but I decided to break with tradition and go with the red on the roses as they worked so well.

The day itself went really well, and hanging out with Phil was awesome. The Magnum Opus studio has a great atmosphere, and I was very relaxed to be there. Also, I've never had a tattoo that healed so well!

When I entered the competition, I really didn't expect to win, so thank you, *Bizarre* and Phil, for a memorable day and for a great piece of art.

Naomi Muldoon, Manchester

SPITTING FEATHERS

My acute interest in zoology and ornithology has had a big influence on the millinery I've been creating for the past four years. I produce what I have always considered to be zoological specimens, like those that you'd find in a natural history museum.

My work sympathetically celebrates the life and beauty of the animal kingdom, although using animals in this way is not a new concept. Using real birds and animals in millinery peaked during the Edwardian era, and my work plays homage to this.

Bizarre has previously featured 'roadkill' fashion designers and artists, which always sparks a debate about how the animals are sourced, and it's a question I get asked a lot. I receive anonymous donations from zoos and animal sanctuaries, which enables me to acquire rare and unusual specimens. Living in the West Country, I have a steady supply of animals shot during season, or as a result of pest control, which would have otherwise been discarded.

Phwoar, she's a sexy bird!

Many 'roadkill' fashion designers claim that they only use roadkill to justify using animals, as they're not confident enough to declare they source animals that have been killed purposely. Sourcing roadkill is unpredictable and unreliable, and it's rare to come across a specimen in a usable condition – especially in the summer months. I have no qualms using animals that have been killed, just as long as they haven't been killed exclusively for my work.

I've been criticised and accused of 'promoting' or 'exploiting' animal cruelty, which I find offensive, as this suggests I lack any respect for animals or the environment. My work is sometimes compared to the meat and fur industry, which I consider ignorant, as unlike those industries, my work is morally and ethically secure. I don't sell my work commercially, and it's placed within an artistic context, therefore it doesn't support current or promote future trends of using (or wearing) animals for fashion. *Bizarre* readers can see more of my creations at Mrwoodsmillinery.blogspot.co.uk

Loren Wood, Bristol

She's feeling a little froggy-headed

PICTURE: RUEBEN HUTCHINGS FOR COFFIN/PAINTING IMAGES
PICTURE: SARAH JAMES FOR ANY IMAGES WITH ALEXANDER IN THEM

Loz from Nottingham recently visited The Bone Church in Kutna Hora in the Czech Republic, where he shared his copy of *Bizarre* with 40,000 skeletons. "They even have chandeliers made out of bones!" he says

WHERE DO YOU READ YOURS?

Most of you enjoy perusing *Bizarre* on the crapper, just like King Karim Jamal (right), but we want to see you reading the world's greatest rag on the highest peaks, in the lowest valleys… and in the weirdest places!

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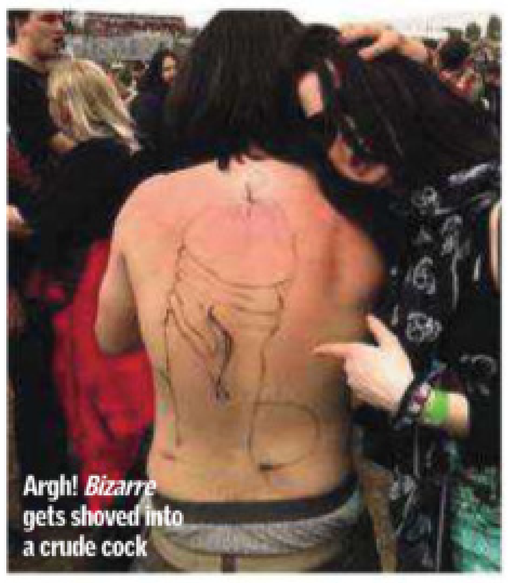
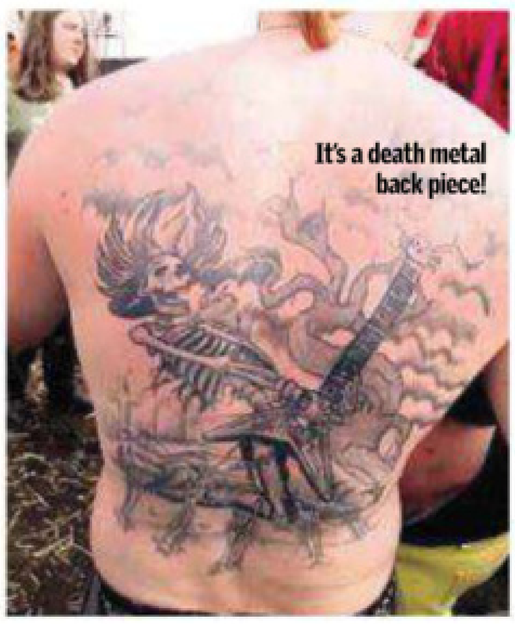

Argh! *Bizarre* gets shoved into a crude cock


It's a death metal back piece!

Nice thongs, boys

Four nuns and a furry

Clowning around

A Scotsman defends his haggis

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READER TATTS AND BODY MODS

PHOTOS **ESTER SEGARRA**

▲ ALEX OVERMIRE
CHESTER

WHO DID IT?
Mark Bailey at Golden Dragon Tattoo Studio, Chester.

WHAT IS IT?
I've got a Sackboy tattoo from *Little Big Planet*, the PlayStation game.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I've been into PlayStation games from a young age and this appeals to my kid-like nature. Also, I've never seen anyone with a decent Sackboy tattoo.

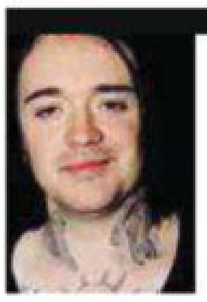
At four and a half hours, it's the longest I've been under the needle for, and it did hurt quite a bit, but I'm absolutely thrilled to bits with the result.

WHAT DO YOUR FAMILY THINK?
My mum really didn't want me to get it, but I'm hoping she might change her mind once she's seen it.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET?
People keep coming up for a closer look, so it's a success!

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
I can't wait for my next piece, which will be a portrait of my late sister, Barbara. I'm also toying with the idea of continuing the videogame theme on my leg.

DAVID QUIGLEY ▼
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA



WHO DID IT?
Danny Edwards at Voodoo Tattoo Studio, Warrington.

WHAT IS IT?
A sexy zombie bitch.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
Luckily, Danny already knows the kind of stuff I'm into, which includes bad horror B-movies.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET?
It depends on what country or city I'm in. People have grabbed me a couple of times in the supermarket. It's strange, but what can you do? I just laugh it off.

WHAT DO YOUR FAMILY THINK?
They shake their head, and say, 'He's being him again'. I have no idea how many tattoos I have; they've all merged into one piece. I had my first one when I was 17, and I'm 31 now.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
I'd have more, but the challenge is trying to schedule in appointments around work. I work in sound and that means I'm on the road and on tour, so I don't have time. At the moment, I'm working with Journey, but I've done all sorts from Alice Cooper to Peter Andre. It's good fun! Next, I'll get more work on my back piece, which is a weird alien horror insect garden. I tend to get random, fun, probably quite bad tattoos.

NICKI CORFIELD
WREXHAM, WALES

WHO DID IT?
Leah Moule at Spear Studio, Birmingham.

WHAT IS IT?
The creatures from *The Animals Of Farthing Wood*, in a cartoon style.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I love cute animals with that wide-eyed Bambi look and, in particular, rabbits. I have a pet bunny called Brody. I got him second-hand because he has a bit of an attitude, but he's got a brilliant personality, eats out of my hand, and licks me. It's the highest compliment to be groomed by a rabbit. I didn't see what Leah had drawn up for me until I went in for the tattoo appointment, and I just loved it.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET?
I'm so used to having it on my skin that I'm taken by surprise when it gets any attention. My boss asks me to cover up in work if we've got important people visiting, but most people love it!

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
I'd like to get some Russian dolls on my other arm, but I'm not done with rabbits yet. I'd like to get one of Brody sitting on a teacup on my leg.

▲ ZENA CORDON
DERBY

WHO DID IT?
Tim Croke at Second Skin Tattoo, Derby.

WHAT IS IT?
Kenneth Williams and Fenella Fielding's characters from *Carry On Screaming*, inked on my leg!

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I love *Carry On* films and I love horror. Kenneth played Doctor Orlando Watt and Fenella played his wife, Valeria. They kidnap beautiful woman and turned them into mannequins to sell to shops. This tattoo reminds me of being little, sitting on the settee and being allowed to watch a whole horror film!

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET?
People love it because they recognise Kenneth straight away.

WHAT DO YOUR FAMILY THINK?
My mum said, 'Why are you having that?' and I said, 'Why not? No-one else has it'. I like my ink to be unique.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
I'm adding another character called Oddbod, along with Bide-A-Wee Rest Home where Doctor Orlando and Valeria live, and the words 'Frying Tonight', which is what Doctor Orlando says when he's plunged into a boiling vat of wax.

JENNY TESSYMAN ▼
BIRKENHEAD

WHO DID IT?
Sister Sammy at Empress Tattoo, Birkenhead.

WHAT IS IT?
A cat and a selection of little rats, surrounded by candlelight.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
It's from the cover of my favourite book, *The Amazing Maurice And His Educated Rodents*, by Terry Pratchett.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET?
Even those who don't like tattoos are intrigued about this piece. I always let them have a look, and I like to chat about it. I wanted to show Mr Pratchett at a book signing I went to, but I didn't. I hope he does another!

WHAT DO YOUR FAMILY THINK?
My dad would rather I wasn't as tattooed as I am, but he accepts it and is supportive when I get new ink.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
When I turn 30, I'm getting the word 'Geek' on my knuckles in good, old-fashioned, circus-style writing.

MICHAEL THOMAS
WALES

WHO DID IT?
Ren at Skin Creation, Cardiff, Wales.

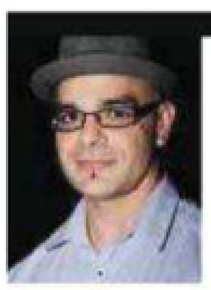
WHAT IS IT?
A portrait of Lemmy, who's obviously the frontman of Motörhead.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
The tattooist was airbrushing bikes before, and then he did this portrait of Lemmy on me, and that's how he made his name. He'd only been tattooing for three months or so. My favourite song is 'Ace Of Spades', and I couldn't be happier. My other tattoos are biker ones.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET?
Everyone wants to get portraits from Ren, now!

WHAT DO YOUR FAMILY THINK?
My missus likes it, but she's a Motörhead fan anyway.

▲MIKE HARRINGTON
UXBRIDGE



WHO DID IT?
Cheryl Gouldthorpe at Road To Nowhere, Barton upon Humber.
WHAT IS IT?
Heath Ledger as The Joker from *The Dark Knight*, on my leg.
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
It's going to be a full leg piece of inspirational bad guys from films, including Freddy Krueger from *A Nightmare On Elm Street*, an *Alien* head, The Wolfman, Dracula... I prefer the old school stuff. We're going to stick Pinhead in there as well, and have the cube floating in the background, and probably some writing from *The Book Of The Dead* from *The Evil Dead*. We're looking for something we can put together as a show piece.
WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET?
Not a lot, as I don't really wear shorts.
WHAT DO YOUR FAMILY THINK?
They're not bothered.

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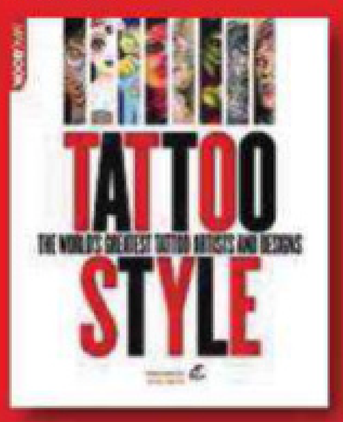
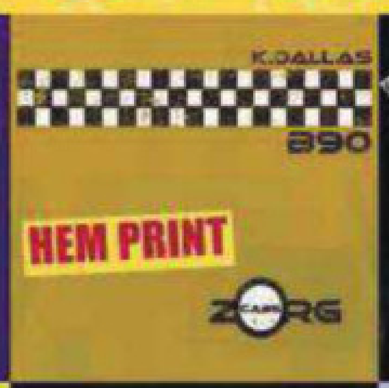
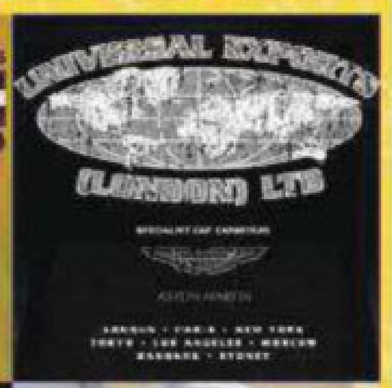
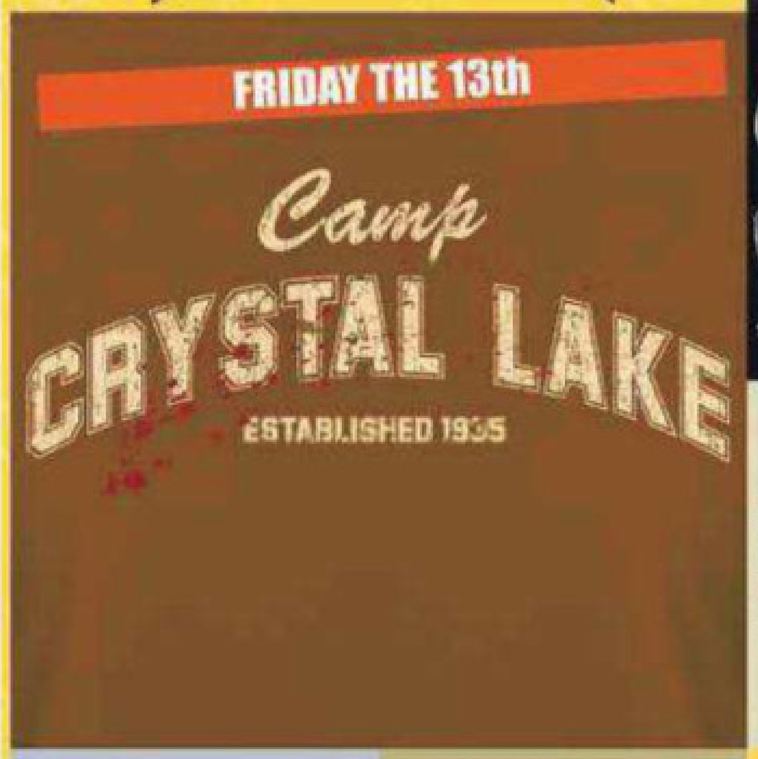
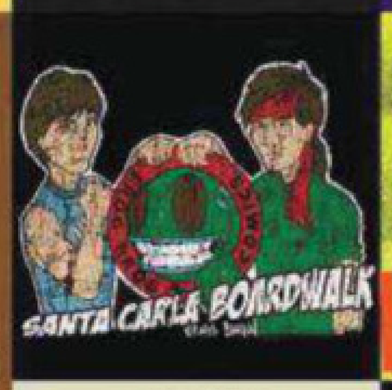


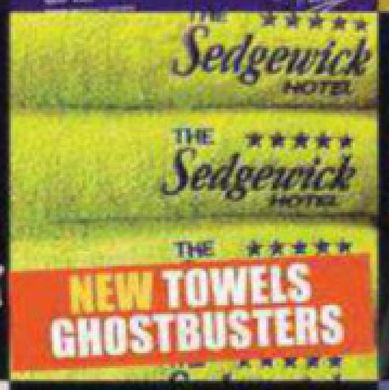
DO YOU KNOW YOUR MOVIES?

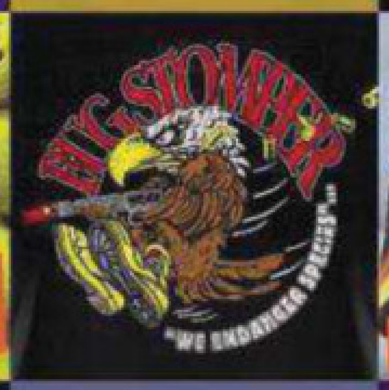


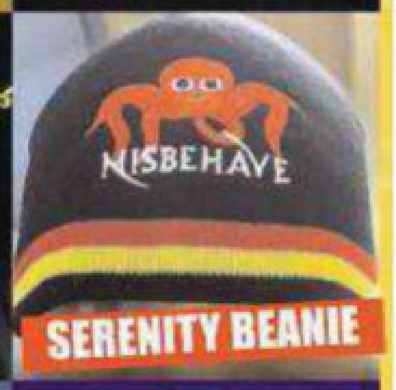


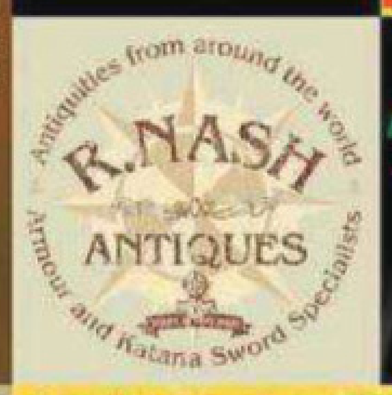












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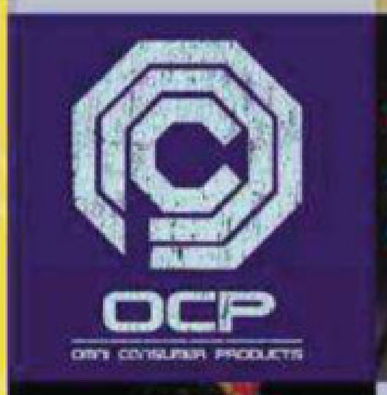

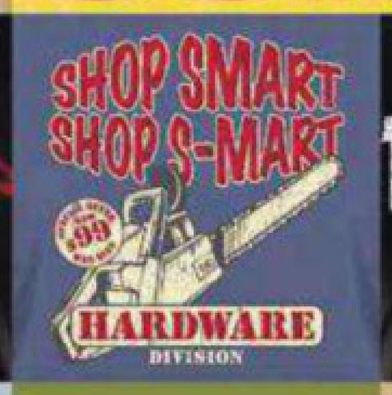

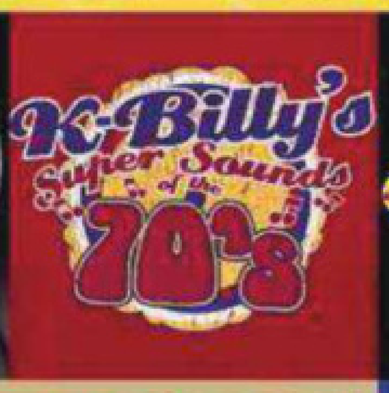

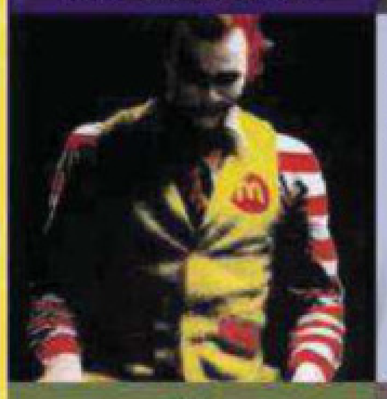

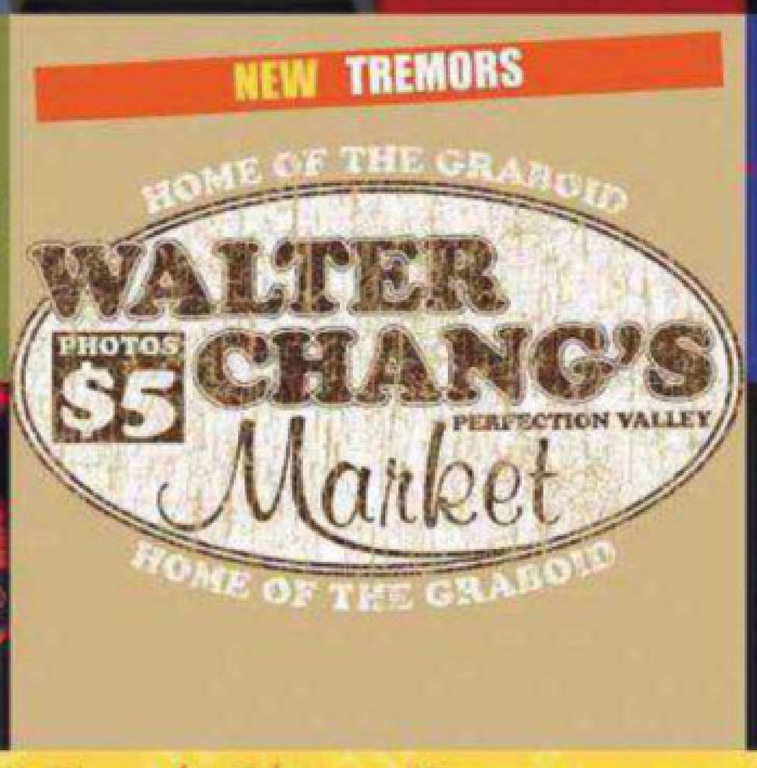

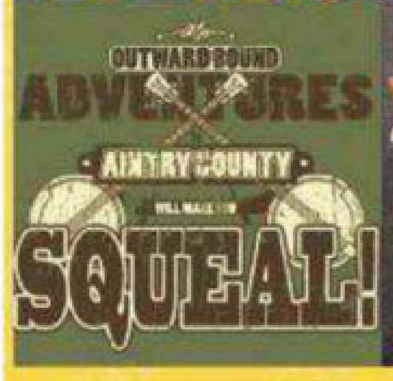

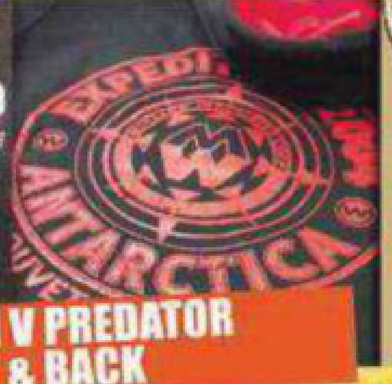

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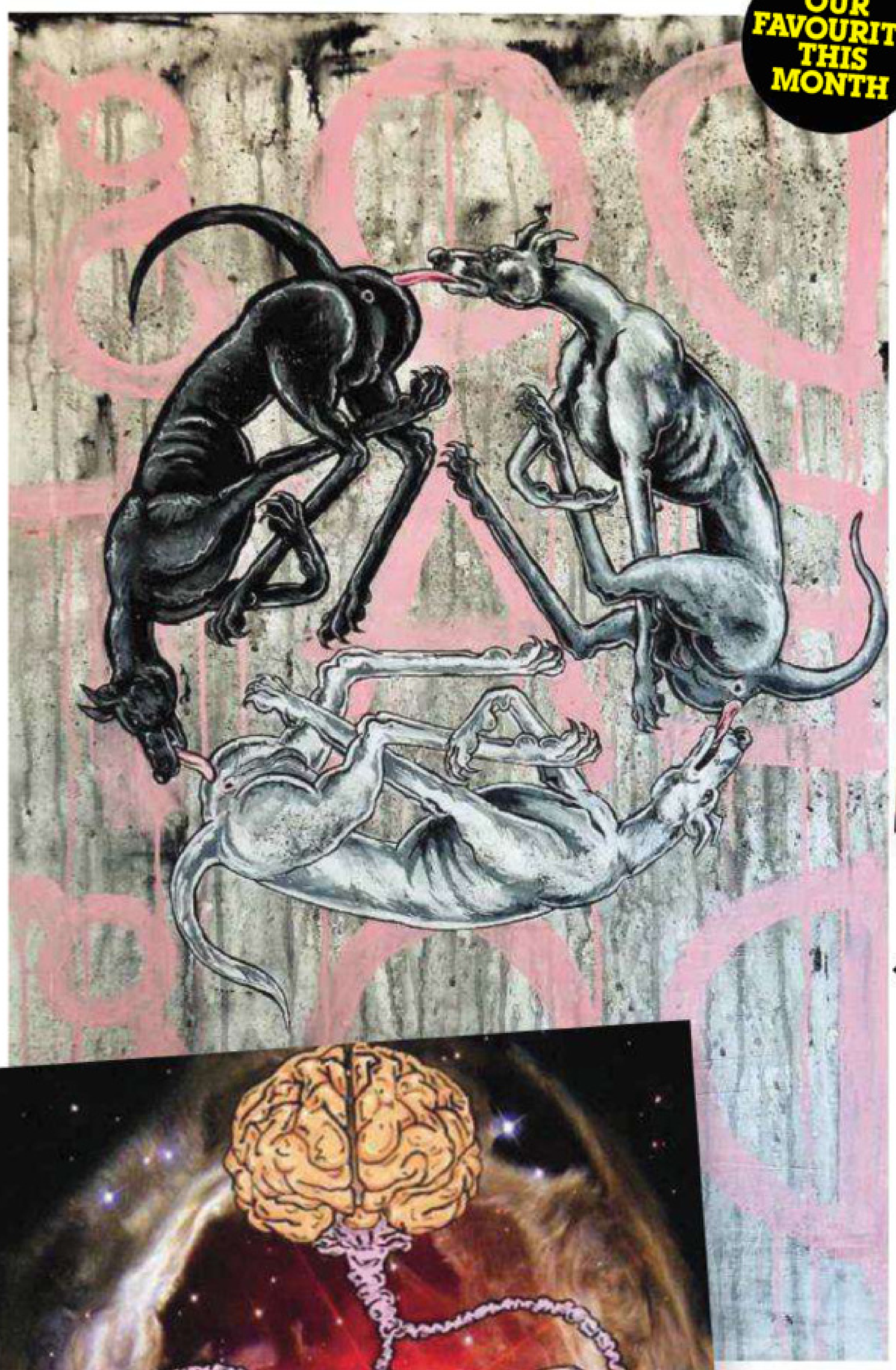

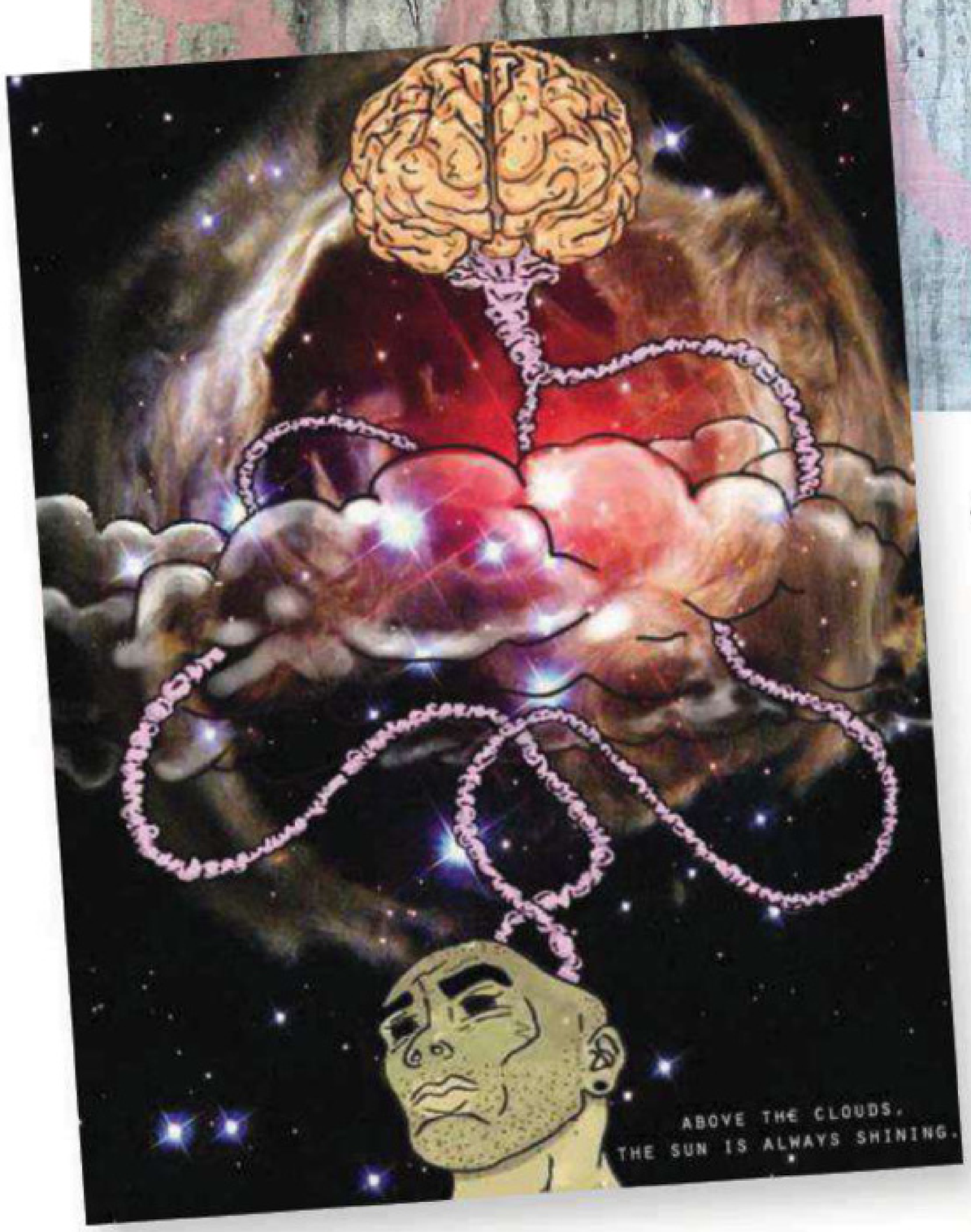

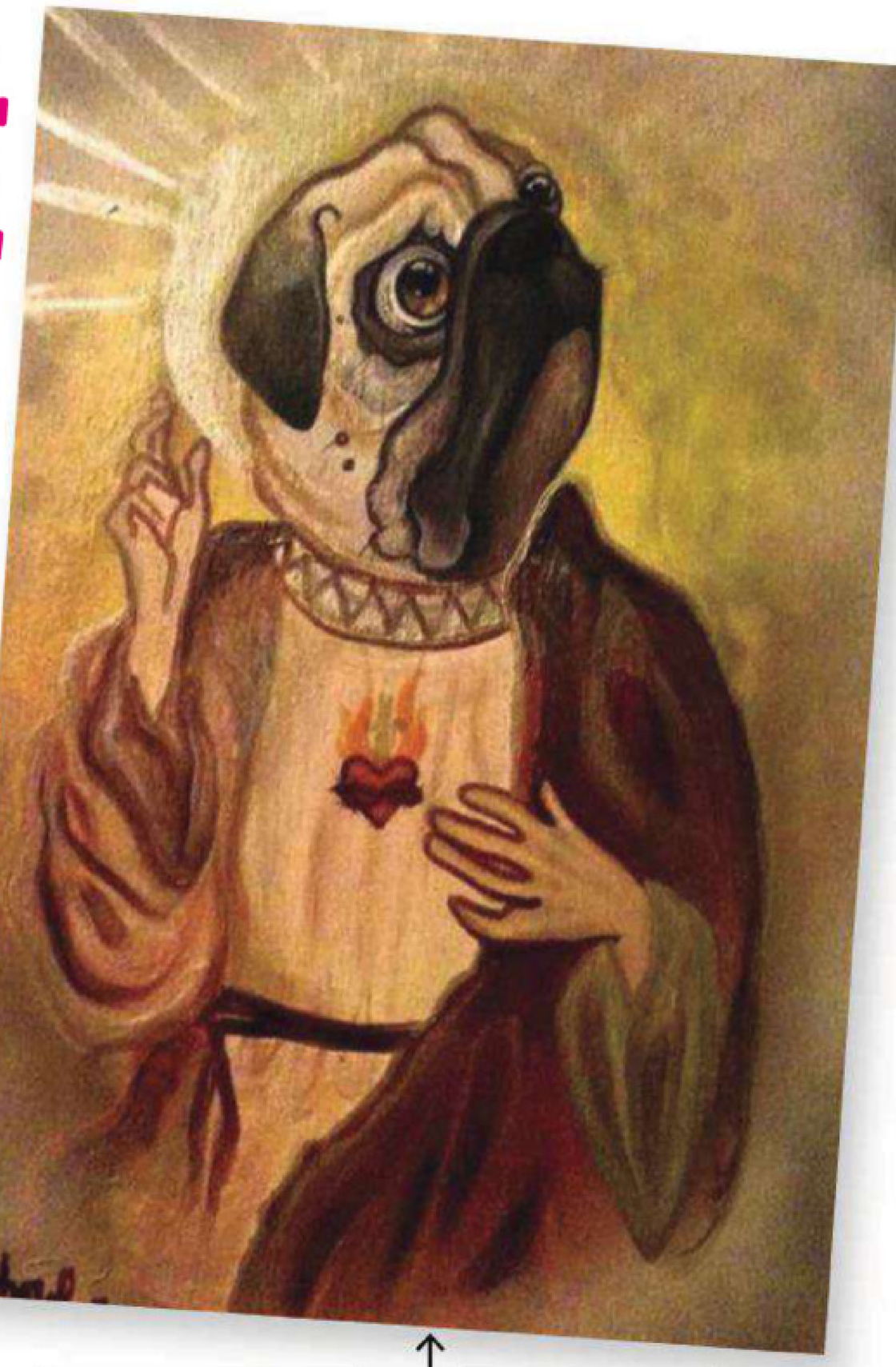

Bonnie Makes Pictures
London
"This piece is taking the expression 'Dog Eat Dog' and turning it from a hostile and competitive system into an act of love, via a crude and fun bum-hole licking scene."
Bonniemakespictures.blogspot.com

Cootie Von Ghoul
Louisiana, USA
"Raised by my father to be creative and embrace the unconventional, my unusual and morbid sense of humour drives a lot of my pieces. This one's called 'Pug Jesus'."
Facebook.com/cootievonghoul

Aloof
Portsmouth
"My pieces don't have names, but they're dictated by the moods I'm in when I created them. I focus on the vulgar nature of human greed, and the deception that people never see though."
Facebook.com/AloofArtwork

Bethan Town-Jones
Bournemouth
"The Woman Who Became A Horse is a character from an old folk tale who falls in love with a horse and transforms into one to be with it. I also like working with monsters, and themes surrounding mythology."
Bethantownjones.tumblr.com

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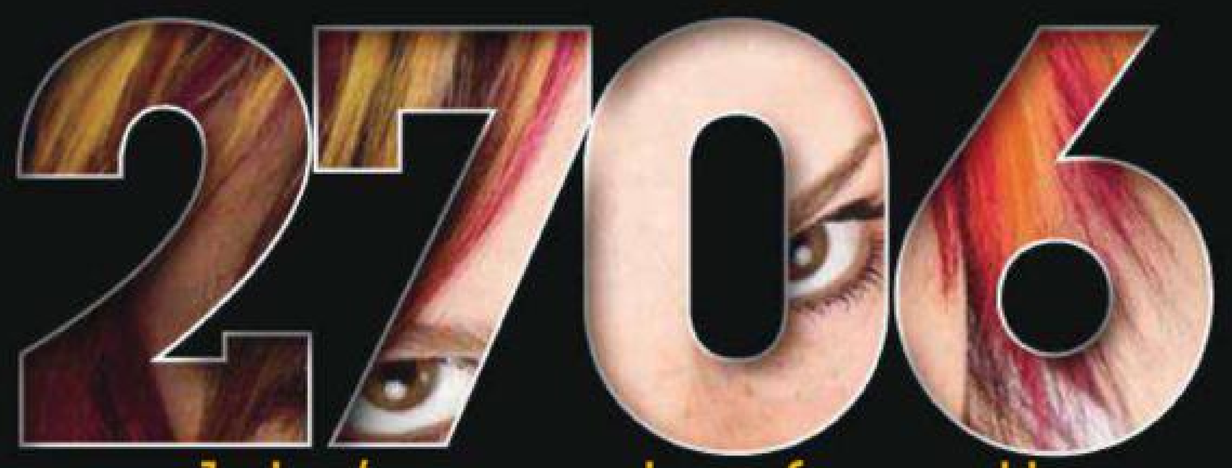

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TANYA TOWNLEY

21, CLITHEROE

"The most surreal moment of my life was being at a Children Of Bodom book signing where the lead singer, Alexi Laiho, put his arm around me. He features heavily in my sexual fantasies, along with Wednesday 13."

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BLUEBIRD

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BONNIE FLOCKERS

20, MANCHESTER

"When someone dares me to do something... fuck it, I'll do it. I love teasing a fella by stripping and grinding on him while he's tied up, and then when I release him it's mind-blowing!"

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AYANA_SATO

25, MADRID, SPAIN

"I actually fell asleep getting my first tattoo done! My kinkiest experience was getting into a fight with another girl, over a man. I love listening to N.E.R.D., Toyko Ska Paradise Orchestra and Korn."

BIZARRE'S Ultra Vixens

LAUREN LASCIVIOUS

20, NOTTINGHAM

"My ex once ditched me for a prostitute, which is a true, tragic and hilarious story. My hottest fantasy is an orgy with James Dean, Chris Hemsworth, Robert Downey Jr, and Travie McCoy from Gym Class Heroes."

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Sign up to **UltraVixens.net** and you'll not only be able to submit your snaps to these pages, but you'll also be in with a chance of getting on the cover of the magazine!

Each month we'll will be scouring **UltraVixens.net** for new stars. When we've spotted 10 girls we like, we'll invite them to take part in a photoshoot in London, which will be printed in *Bizarre*. If any of the girls make the grade, they'll appear on the cover, just like PoppyThorn did (below)! Up for the challenge? Then sign up at **UltraVixens.net** and hit the 'Make Me A Cover Star' button on your profile page!

OUR NEW FAVES!

BIZARRE ART DIRECTOR DAVE KELSALL AND AUNTIE DEN JUDGE NEW ARRIVALS ON ULTRAVIXENS.NET

EMMA ALICIA

Auntie Den says: "This gal's got 'sultry' down, and I mean *face down*, on the mat, in a headlock and gasping for breath. She can also strike a pose encased in the tightest latex on God's earth. Both my thumbs are erected upwards."

Dave Kelsall says: "I completely agree with Den. She's like an alternative Sophie Howard, and she gets my 'thumb' erected upwards as well."

MAGGIE-PAIGE

Auntie Den says: "Clingfilm, straitjackets, straddling a decapitated human torso with her knockers drenched in claret; Maggie can turn her hand to anything and come up smelling of sexy."

Dave Kelsall says: "You may have spotted Maggie on our Ultra Vixens advert elsewhere in the mag. Her pictures are so good that I always want to make them as big as possible... except here... where it's tiny."

PICTURE: CARL FARMER OF RED TREE STUDIOS

KER-CHING!

IT'S EASY TO MAKE MONEY ON ULTRAVIXENS.NET

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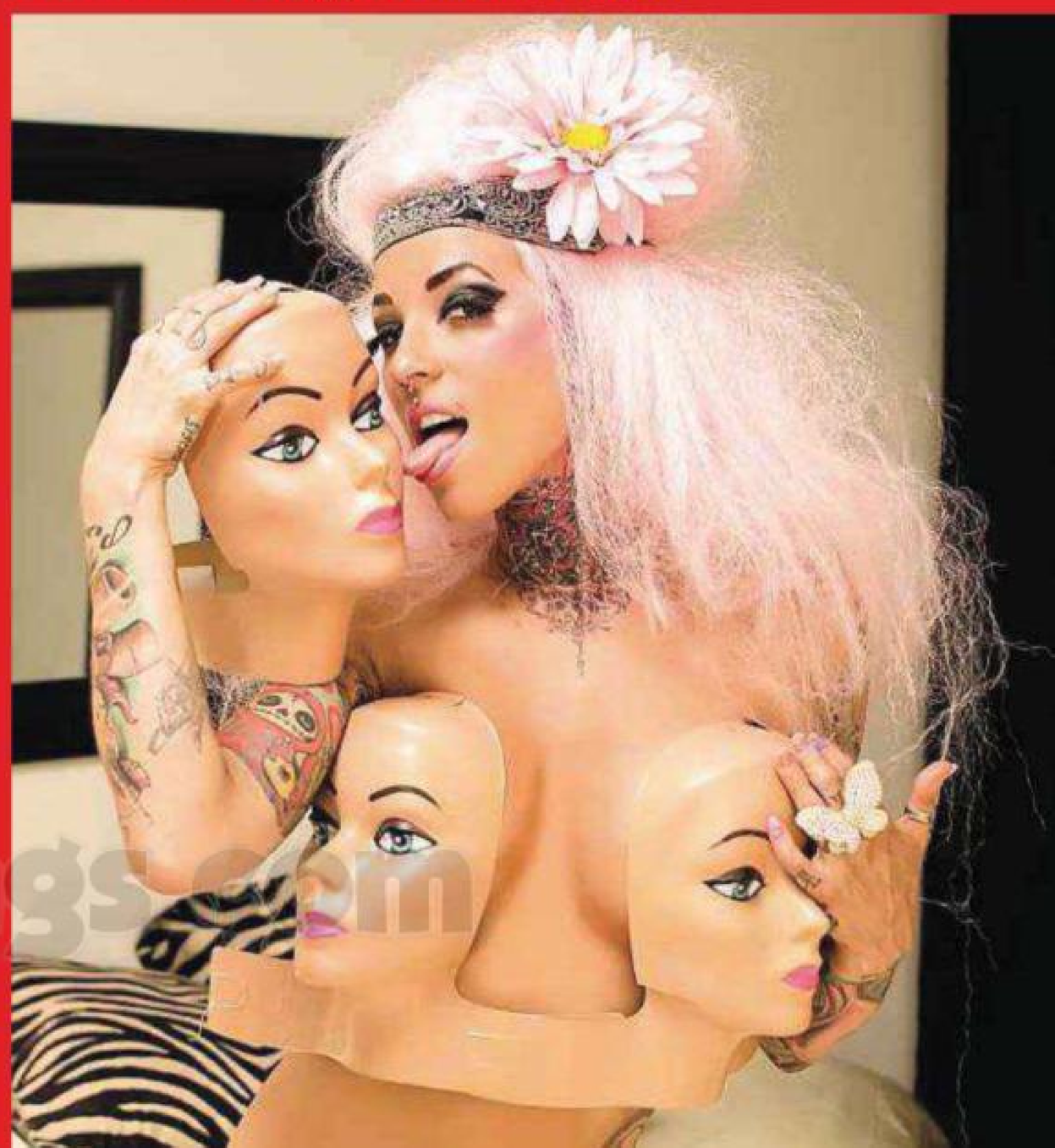
Bambu Jessica (below) is one of our latest **LIVE CHAT** girls. Sign up and head to **Ultravixens.net/bambujessica** to book a chat session with her. To see the full line-up of LIVE CHAT Ultra Vixens, go to **UltraVixens.net/live**



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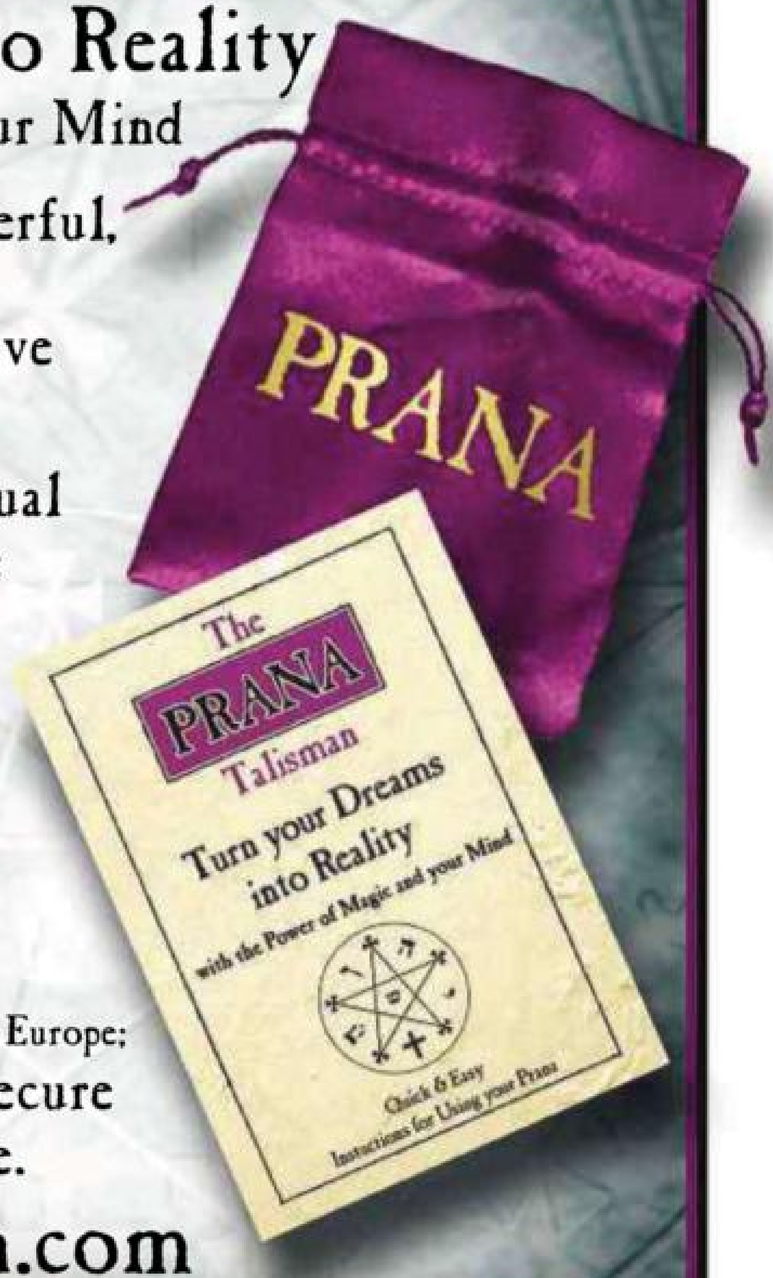

PRANA - the Talisman of the Elements, the Breath of Life and the Four Archangels.

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ACTION STATIONS!

PHOTOS **SCOTTY JX, ACTIONGIRLS.COM**

Get locked and loaded for the bad-ass babes of Actiongirls.com! →

Here at *Bizarre*, we can't get enough of Actiongirls.com. An explosive blend of girls and guns, bombs and boobs, and flesh and flamethrowers, Actiongirls.com takes the conventions of Hollywood action movies and injects a lethal shot of sex appeal, offering subscribers over two million pictures and thousands of movies to lust over, featuring some of *Bizarre*'s favourite kinky models such as Veronica Zemanova, Jordan Carver, Jenny P and Kathy Lee.

Founded by Actiongirls.com owner and director, Scotty JX, in 2003, Actiongirls.com is now visited by over five million people every day, making it the closest any adult site has ever come to mainstream entertainment. We caught up with Scotty JX to find out more about his incendiary creation, and discover why he's dedicated his life to making our action-flick fantasies come true.

Hey, Scotty JX. For *Bizarre* readers who haven't seen Actiongirls.com, how would you describe it?
Actiongirls.com features the hottest babes from around the world, styled to look as if they've come straight out of a blockbuster action movie. It's a clash of art, movies, comics, rap and heavy metal, featuring music by bands such as Ministry, KMFDM and Amorphis.

Since its launch in 2003, we've stockpiled a vast amount of exclusive videos and pictures, featuring the best models posing and performing in action-based scenarios, such as Wild West, comicbook, horror, military and slew of others.

To survive in today's competitive market, paysites need to be constantly updated to keep fans and new members excited, and many adult sites now operate like an assembly line. However, because these sites have limited budgets, many are forced to cut quality to offer the expected quantity of pictures and videos. But that's *not* the case at Actiongirls.com!

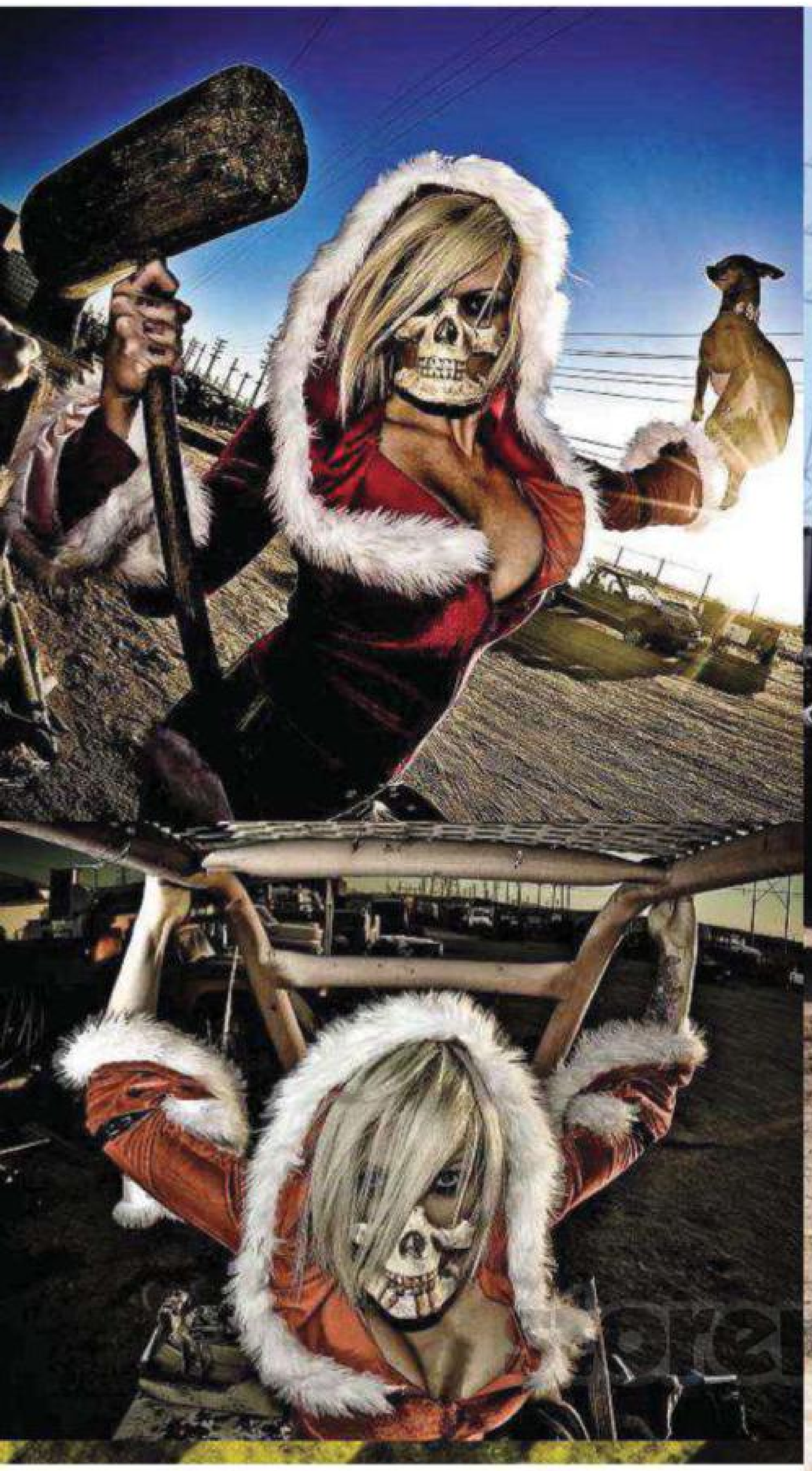
It sounds like you have the best job in the world!
I can't tell you how happy I am to be running this site – it's a dream come true. And I'm grateful to have been born at the right time to take advantage of the internet boom.

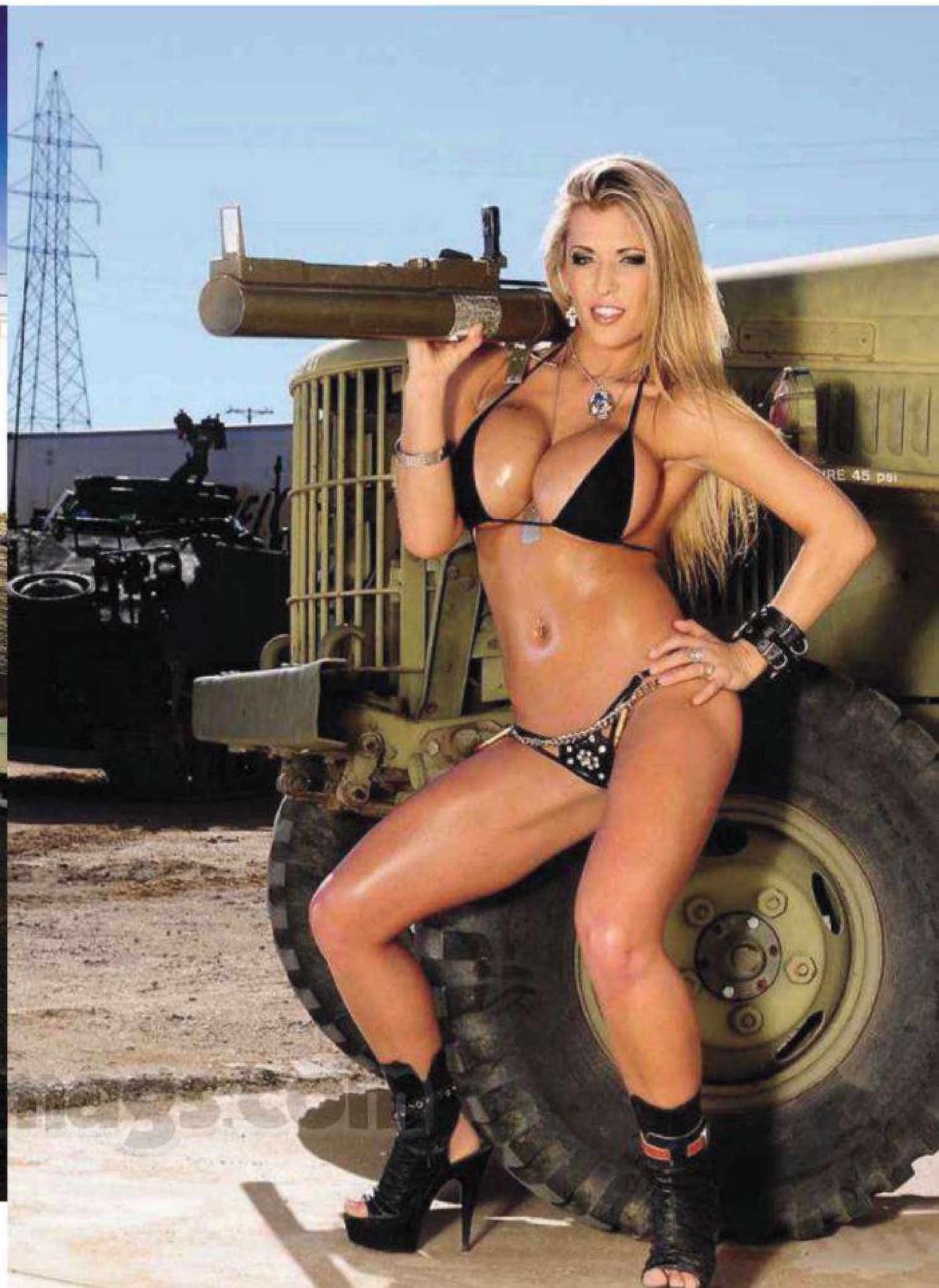
I never dreamed that I'd find a way to work at home, meet beautiful women around the world, and actually be able to shoot them in the nude and sell the pictures. No-one would've paid me to do this when we launched in 2003, as the concept of Actiongirls.com was so unusual. But because of the rise of the internet there's a clear and easy way for artists to deliver their work directly to the people who want it. I'm grateful to all my fans who've supported me over the years, and who've given me the ability to be creative without limitations.

Actiongirls.com isn't simply something you spotted a gap in the market for, is it? You sound like you genuinely love this stuff...
Actiongirls.com comes from my heart. I've always had a passion for art inspired by action, sci-fi and horror movies, as well as the fantasy art of Frank Frazetta and Boris Vallejo.

My motivation was that I wanted to do something different in the softcore market. I did loads of research by renting movies to see what was out there, but I found traditional softcore to be boring and uninspiring. So I decided to search for inspiration elsewhere, and looked to mainstream culture and Hollywood movies.

After a lot of research, I assembled a plan for the first Actiongirls.com video series, and worked for two years editing and shooting material. The site officially debuted in summer 2003. →





"ACTIONGIRLS MUST BE HOT, ENERGETIC, AND HAVE STRONG OPINIONS!"

ACTION FLICK CHICKS

When it launched, Actiongirls.com only had the equivalent of one DVD of video and about 40 photosets, which were of my original Actiongirls.com cast that featured Veronica Zemanova, Sylvia Saint, Martina Fox, Silvie Thomas and so on.

Actiongirls.com has changed over the years. Is it important to you to keep changing the site?

My early Actiongirls.com videos had a voyeuristic feel, as if you were watching the girls living in their own world, and you were following them around and watching them fire weapons. However, in my perfect dream world, I also envisioned beautiful women that weren't just pretty, but had character and personality that made you care for them beyond their naked flesh. I wanted viewers to see what I see when I meet the models – that they're real people, and like anyone else they have their own feelings, dreams, regrets and passions.

In 2005 I took the site in a new direction. I've always been a fan of heavy metal, and I loved MTV when it was all about music videos and not reality shows like it is today. I wanted to create a more vulgar, explicit music video channel as heavy metal and rap have always been underground and rebellious, so I decided to apply my vision to Actiongirls.com. And the results were a big hit.

In 2008 I wanted to make another big change, as most people referred to Actiongirls.com as an adult or a softcore porn site, but I wanted my work to be regarded as more than that. I came up with the theory that men want to see hot women, period, more than naked flesh. Peoples' attitudes to internet porn have matured over the years, so for me the key was finding the *right* models, rather than simply girls who'd take their clothes off. My viewers would rather look at a hot girl with clothes on than an average-looking girl in the nude. Of course, if you can find the perfect girl in the nude, nothing beats that!

From 2008 onwards I decided that the girls I shoot must be hot, first and foremost, whether they're nude or not. This allowed me to give the site more mass market appeal, and create a brand that existed on the edge, but didn't fall into the 'porn' category. As Clint Eastwood says in *A Fistful Of Dollars*, Actiongirls.com is "right smack in the middle". So from that time onwards I featured red-hot models such as Denise Milani, Jenny P, Wendy Fiore, Jordan Carver and more.

I keep changing Actiongirls.com as I want viewers to feel as if they don't know what's →

"AN ACTIONGIRL'S BOOBS HAVE ENORMOUS POWER. THE POWER OF A WOMAN'S BREASTS IS NO JOKE!"

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coming next. I always want there to be a feeling of curiosity, as that creates excitement. I need the freedom to explore new things, and try approaches that others haven't.

But while Actiongirls.com has evolved over the years, there are some things that'll never change. It'll always be about action and girls, and it'll always be created by people who are passionate about this genre. I could've pursued a Hollywood career, but after consideration I decided that there were already enough talented artists in the mainstream, and that I wanted to work in an industry that needs help, and where my talents have a natural place. And that place is Actiongirls.com.

Actiongirls.com is a lot like a traditional Hollywood action hero – it does what others are afraid to do, it isn't afraid to explore and experiment, and it'll always stand up for itself. And it'll never be porn.

What have you got in store for us next?
Well, the next big change is about to hit Actiongirls.com. I'm going to take the site up a notch, with a new look and feel that'll knock your socks off and make people excited about Actiongirls.com all over again. I don't want to say too much, but here are a few spoilers: there's going to be a 'best of' Sylvia Saint DVD coming, as well as a 'best of' Veronica Zemanova with extra, never-before-seen, behind-the-scenes footage, as well as remixes of classic videos.

In these days of big-screen Hollywood blockbusters, CGI is king. But the CGI route is something you've only recently begun to explore...
I've always been a fan of special effects blockbusters, and as a kid I bought magazines such as *Fangoria* and *Starlog* to find out how they were created. If I wasn't a director, I'd be a horror make-up or special effects artist in Hollywood. →

"ACTIONGIRLS.COM IS LIKE A TRADITIONAL HOLLYWOOD ACTION HERO – IT DOES WHAT OTHERS ARE AFRAID TO DO. IT ISN'T AFRAID TO EXPLORE AND EXPERIMENT, AND IT'LL ALWAYS STAND UP FOR ITSELF!"

But although I always wanted to dabble in special effects, my original philosophy was to do everything for real, without the use of CG or green screens. When I shot something I wanted real muzzle flashes (the light created by the release of high-pressure gases from the front end of a gun barrel), not computer effects.

However, as every Hollywood action blockbuster is now dominated by green screen technology and CG effects, I decided to give them a go. In 2009 I finally set up a green screen in my office and shot a few sets – and the results were amazing. I loved it because I could shoot at home (that's laziness talking…), and it's also cool because I don't need to obey any rules, and can create whatever is in my mind without limits. Since 2009 I've shot over 400 photosets on green screen.

Because using computers gives me immense freedom, you'll soon see Actiongirls Dino Babes on the site, where CG effects make the videos look like something from *The Lord Of The Rings*. I also want to explore more comicbook-style stories and characters, and do an Actiongirls video that's half live action, half animated.

There's also an Actiongirls videogame in the works. Imagine Veronica Zemanova with a .50 calibre machine gun on the back of a jeep, riding though a jungle and shooting perverts who want free membership to Actiongirls.com as they claim they can't afford to sign up, and are used to never paying for anything because they get it all for free on the internet. Ha-ha! Or imagine a rock-hard Susana Spears blowing up department stores in Beverly Hills. There are things in my head that have to come out before I die. I refuse to waste time. I'm always working, trying to get all my ideas out as long as I'm healthy. I promise to keep whatever I do entertaining and fun, and it'll always be something you can tell your friends about.

On the site you have Actiongirls Heroes, Mercenaries and Recruits. Can you tell us how these groups work?

Actiongirls Heroes are the models I feel are the superstars of my site. They're generally busty, but not always. Their pictures are mostly shot by me, and are usually the most luxurious sets, with the highest production values.

Actiongirls Mercenaries are deadly. They've got attitude, and can get mean, tough and gritty. This section features models that are making a name for themselves in the alternative adult world. They're not the popular, blonde, stuck-up cheerleader types from high school – they're like a sharp razor on your chair, and are always stalking, hiding and waiting to make a surprise attack. They can be tattooed, they can be bikers, or they can be the girl from your local grocery store. But they're all as deadly as Chuck Norris, so be careful!

Actiongirls Recruits are hot girls, period. They've not yet become Actiongirls – they're newbies, the fresh meat of the industry – and are mostly, but not always, nude. They want to become a proper Actiongirl, but haven't yet been tested in battle, and don't have the scars to prove themselves worthy. But they're sexy, oiled-up and definitely worth checking out. The locations they're shot in may be typical, but the girls are anything but normal. →

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"ACTIONGIRLS ARE AS DEADLY AS CHUCK NORRIS, SO BE CAREFUL!"

What qualities do you look for in an Actiongirl?
The perfect Actiongirl *must* be hot, and have something that makes her stand out. She must have a strong personality, and she needs to be energetic. Actiongirls have an attitude and strong opinions, but not to the point of being annoying.

If an Actiongirl doesn't have large breasts, she should have other assets – a ripped stomach, a bubble butt or whatever. And, if not, she must have special abilities such as gymnastics, martial arts or some other unique talent.

As there are thousands of girls out there wanting to jump into nude, glamour or fitness modelling, Actiongirls need to go a step further. There must be something memorable about them, and they're the sort of girls who'll turn down jobs because they're free-spirited, hard to control and a little wild. But, deep down, they have a heart. They're the sorts of girls a lot of men dream about marrying.

Do you use real weapons?
I use all sorts of guns, both real and fake. Actiongirls.com isn't an authentic 'girls with guns' site, so there are no rules about using authentic weapons – it's all about action, not guns. Viewers don't normally notice if I use fake weapons, but if they do they're very smart, as I'm always careful to make fakes look as real as possible. I don't like cheap plastic or shiny guns – even my fakes need to be made from real metal. Mostly I buy the weapons myself or rent them.

What training do the girls get before a shoot?
There isn't much training, unless they're using a flamethrower. So far there have been no accidents, and nobody has got hurt. There's been the odd mishap, such as someone tripping up or falling on their face, but that's about it.

Having said that, I did have a model once who got stung by a bee during a shoot, and she had no idea she was allergic to them. Luckily, we got to a hospital in time, but her face had swollen up and it was kinda scary!

My worst injury was when my trousers fell down in front of a camera crew. I went to grab my trousers as they slipped, but I tripped on them and pulled a muscle in my groin! For about a month, it took me 15 minutes to put my trousers and underwear on in the morning.

Wow, we never knew that bees and trousers could be so dangerous! On the funny side, what's been your most memorable Actiongirls blooper?
Once Veronica Zemanova was running with a shotgun and she tripped, and fell on her boobs on a pavement. I was scared as she was getting up, because I thought her implants might've popped. But she just got up with a smile and said, "You thought my breasts had exploded, didn't you?"

Another time, Wendy Fiore was getting ready to shoot her first Actiongirls.com video, and she was wearing a skintight see-through top and not much else. We were standing near a busy road, and I was scared to let her turn and face the traffic because her boobs are so enormous, and I was worried about her causing a car crash!

Anyway, I dared Wendy to turn around and see how long it would take before a guy stopped, and within a second someone pulled over and asked if he could have a photo with her. Wendy's boobs have enormous power. The power of a woman's breasts is no joke!

What are you waiting for, soldier? Head on over to Actiongirls.com and sign up. It's your duty!

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For over 20 years, The Tiger Lillies have been shocking audiences around the world with songs about murder, suicide and sticking hamsters up your arse. As they embark on their most ambitious shows to date, *The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner* and *Hamlet*, *Bizarre* caught up with founder and frontman, Martyn Jacques, to talk about sex clubs, dirty sailors and *The Simpsons* →

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The Tiger Lillies are *Bizarre*'s favourite band. That's a bold statement from a magazine that regularly plays host to the finest metal, wildest rock'n'roll, and most interesting outsider music from across the globe. But if you were to distil the corrupt spirit of this fine publication and use it to create a Frankenstein's monster with a wheezing accordion and its face hidden beneath layers of thick greasepaint, we'd like to think The Tiger Lillies would be the result of this perverse necromancy.

Formed by frontman Martyn Jacques in 1989, The Tiger Lillies have relentlessly toured the world, bringing their eccentric lyrics and delirious stompers to audiences all the way from London's grimiest toilet venues to plush theatres as far away as Australia and New Zealand. And with two new shows and accompanying albums under their belt – and a clutch of celebrity fans including Marilyn Manson, Terry Gilliam and *The Simpson*'s Matt Groening, who sing the Lillies' praises at every opportunity – it looks like 2012 is going to be a vintage year for the world's most offensive band.

As he prepares for his first solo performances in London's Soho Theatre, *Bizarre* caught up with Martyn Jacques to find out more about the band's new shows, and discovered that the frontman with the voice of an angel – but a mind like a sewer – is as deliciously twisted as the songs he sings.

The Tiger Lillies (l-r): Adrian Stout, Martyn Jacques and Adrian Huge

The new Tiger Lillies show is based on Samuel Taylor Coleridge's epic poem, *The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner*. What inspired you to explore this salty tale?

Coleridge's poem fascinated me mainly because it's about sailors… and you know what nice girls think about them, ha-ha! I like gypsies, circus people, freaks, boxers, transsexuals, and the whores waiting in ports for sailors to give them their money… all the people living on the edge. All my songs are about them. Superficially, Coleridge's poem is also about God, and the consequences of cruelty and paying for your actions. It's a great morality tale. Christianity and religion generally, in my opinion, are obsolete. But if you're a bastard in life it catches up with you eventually, and one day you'll have to pay. Sorry if there are any bastards reading! Have you ever met a happy bastard? No? That's because there aren't any.

How long did you work on the project?

The album took three years, mainly because it took us that long to find someone to give us the funds to create a live show to accompany it. It was mainly made in San Francisco, with lots of local musicians who play on Tom Waits albums.

Wow, Tom Waits! *Bizarre* would give its right arm to meet the people who worked on his records...

Actually, we had another Tom Waits link during some recordings we made in Hamburg, Germany. Waits worked with musicians at the Thalia Theater, and we recorded our album *The Sea* with the same people. I guess Tom Waits and The Tiger Lillies are both children of *The Threepenny Opera* by German dramatist Bertolt Brecht and composer Kurt Weill – all wheezing harmoniums, accordions and drunken banjos.

The *Rime Of The Ancient Mariner* is a great album, but we've heard the live show is a visual feast...

The show has amazing visuals from award-winning photographer, Mark Holthusen. He took some photos of us that were beautiful, so I thought he could supply amazing visuals for a whole show. And I was right, he has! *The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner* is a wonderful show, and one of our most accomplished works.

You've also released a new CD based on Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, with an accompanying live show. Have you always been a fan of the Bard?

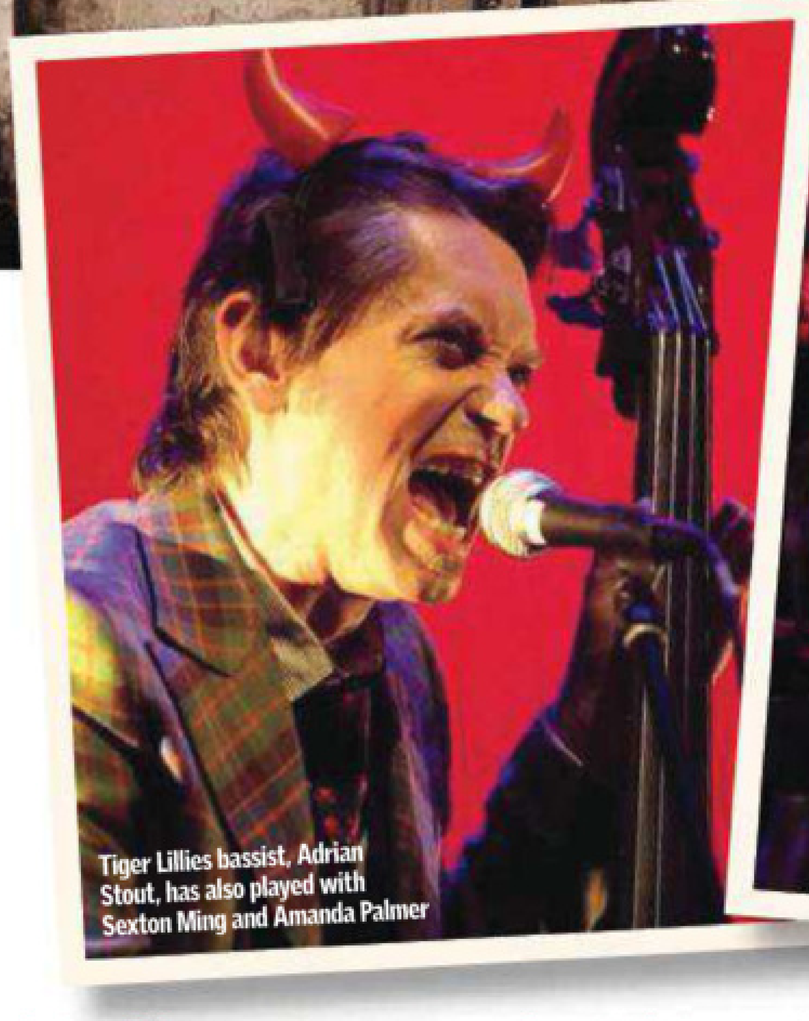
I was never a huge Shakespeare fan, but when you start to unravel his text you realise he was making sharp observations about the nature of power and corruption. In fact, I'd argue that *Hamlet* is as black as any song I've ever written. A play about a man who's driven insane by the murderous corruption that surrounds him… that's just like real life. Watch the news! Macho, power-crazed gangsters still run the world, and if you get in their way, they'll kill you. That's what Shakespeare thought as well. He knew that people in power are all the same – greedy, ruthless murderers. Did the Royal Family kill Princess Diana? Looking at the history of British royalty, it's far more likely they did than they didn't. Then all these people pack the streets to celebrate the Queen's jubilee – it's outrageous! All the best writers see through that shit. You might be able to fool some of the people all of the time, but Shakespeare knew what a nasty bunch the people in power are. That's what the G8 protests are about, because a group of people have realised that the world's run by a greedy bunch of murderous bastards!

Given the fact that you've released *Hamlet* and *The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner*, and in the past recorded a CD based on Heinrich Hoffman's creepy childrens' book, *Der Struwwelpeter*, we assume

A grimy photograph based on The Tiger Lillies'-2001 album, *Two Penny Opera*

THE TIGER LILLIES

Adrian Huge plays various recycled drums, toys and cymbals obtained from the bars and bins of Europe



Tiger Lillies bassist, Adrian Stout, has also played with Sexton Ming and Amanda Palmer

"PEOPLE USED TO THINK WE WERE WEIRD, BUT I GUESS I'VE ALWAYS FELT PROUD WHEN I OFFEND SOMEONE!"

you enjoy putting your own spin on existing works of fiction – is that fair to say?

It's fun to take a classic text and give it a Tiger Lillies spin. It's easy, really – you just dirty everything up and try to focus on the most twisted, perverted and unpleasant aspects of the text! I'm always trying to work out what writers are *really* saying. Good writers are usually saying dark things. I'm just liberating their work and bringing into the 21st century.

The Tiger Lillies are hugely popular across Europe – why do you think the band has such a strong appeal, despite the language barrier?

Russians and Greeks love us. Some of our fans don't speak English, but they can *feel* what the songs are about. They listen to the music and my voice, and can almost touch the dark atmosphere. If anything, the fact they don't speak English builds another dimension of mystery, and lets them create their own twisted fantasy.

As The Tiger Lillies' popularity has grown across the world, you've begun to play in bigger venues and plush theatres. Do you ever miss the dodgy toilet venues you used to play in London? Was there a certain charm about playing filthy songs to raucous crowds, or is that just romantic claptrap?

In the old days we used to play in noisy bars to drunken people. We did some great gigs – in fact, they were some of our best shows! But I wouldn't want to go back to singing through broken PAs, or having people throw glasses at me during 'Banging In The Nails' (one of Jacques' most notorious songs, where he fantasises about being a Roman centurion, crucifying Jesus Christ). Funnily enough, as the years go by and we win things like the Olivier Award (in 2002, for *Shockheaded Peter*) and get nominated for a Grammy (for the Lillies' 2003 album, *The Gorey End*) we do get put in front of bourgeoise audiences in plush theatres. I don't mind – I write what I want! If the audience like it, and they increasingly do, why should I worry? We've been going for 23 years, and you always get a few fans who don't like changes in direction. I always think it's a good sign when people complain. So long as they don't *all* complain, that's fine!

One of our favourite Tiger Lillies shows of all time was your storming set at the Bizarre Ball in 2010. Did you enjoy that gig?

The *Bizarre* readers were all pretty drunk and rowdy, but it was fun!

Although The Tiger Lillies have come a long way in the past 23 years, there's still plenty in your lyrics to offend the lily-livered. Does offending people give you a secret thrill?

The Tiger Lillies get respect now that we're a little famous. Today, we're considered to be art. When we started out, audiences just thought we were weird and pornographic. Some people walked out or threw things at us. But I guess I've always felt a little proud when I offend people.

After over 20 years on the road, you must have a book's worth of funny and shocking anecdotes up your sleeve...

I remember going to a club in New York after a gig, and watching this chap fist another guy on stage. Later, someone I knew came up to me and said he was disappointed that I'd missed his act, which involved him shitting over the stage. I smiled and carried on watching the fisting. Once I went to Torture Garden – run by my friend David – with two other friends. David's partner came up and said, "What are we going to do? This guy has just pissed all →

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over his friend. Shall we chuck them out?" I turned around and realised they were talking about *my* friends! I spent some time talking to the one who'd been pissed on, until the smell got a bit too much.

What's the worst gig you've ever played?
I know this guy – he's quite successful and a fan. But every time he's organised a show for us, it's been a disaster. If it's at a party, everyone ignores us and keeps on talking. If it's at a festival, 100 Lillies fans turn up, and that's it. His shows are always awful, but he still tries to book us!

Have you heard the rumour that The Tiger Lillies are on the FBI's list of 'subversive bands'? If you're genuinely considered 'dangerous' in the US, would you ever play a gig in butt-fuck Tennessee?
It would be an honour to play in the Deep South. But if we ever got a gig in Tennessee, it would probably be in a plush theatre!

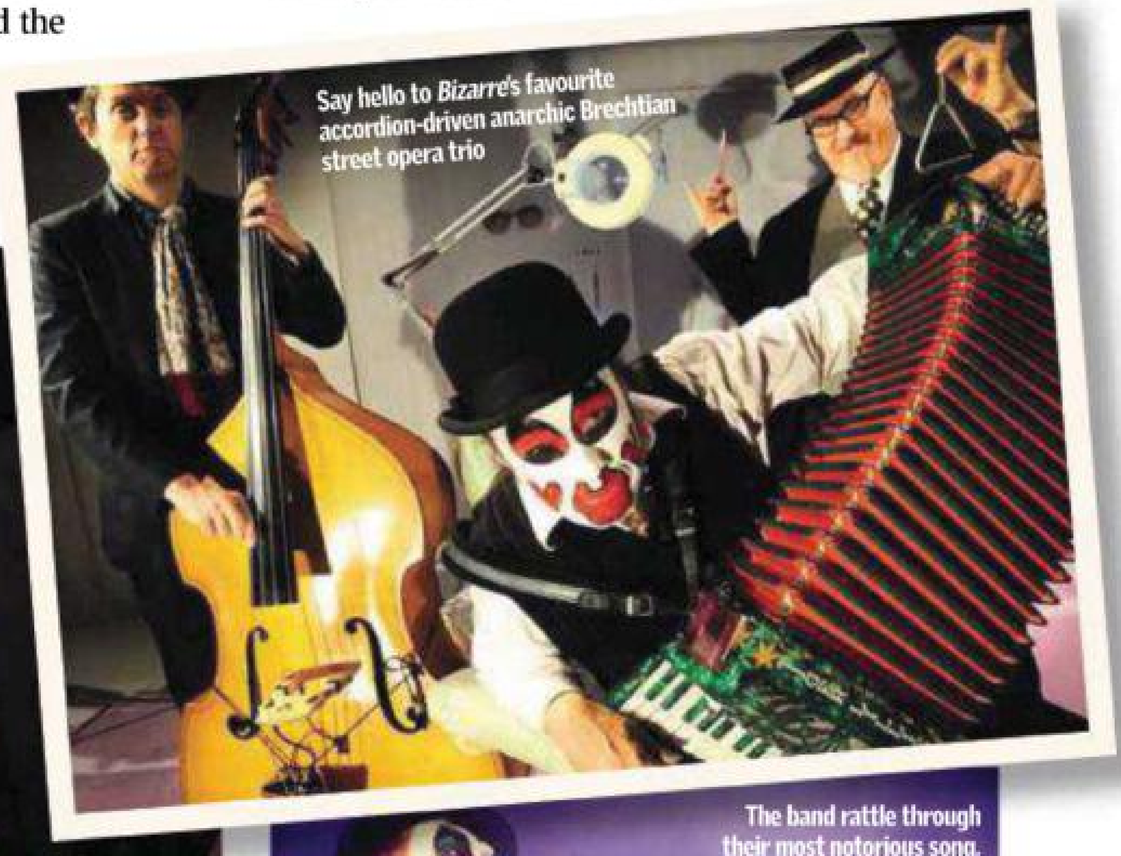
Your list of celebrity fans grows by the year – Marilyn Manson, Terry Gilliam, Mark Almond – and Matt Groening even got you to record *The Simpsons* theme for the TV show. Do you enjoy these celebrity endorsements, or is it slightly embarrassing to be bigged up by other artists?
We can do with all the bigging up we can get!

Looking back at The Tiger Lillies' huge discography, which albums stand out for you?
One of my favourite Tiger Lillies albums is *The Sea* (2003). It's beautiful and strange. The myth and folklore of the sea really gets me, as do images of Neptune, mermaids, sea serpents, ghost ships, old sailors, and the ports with their bars, brothels and whores. I also love the twisted seafaring in Jean Genet's novel *Querelle Of Brest*, and the homoerotic aspects of it as well. I'm fascinated by all aspects of transgressive sex. You get it all with sailors!

As you play around 200 shows a year, does singing the same songs every night become tiresome?
The same songs every night? He-he! We don't do much of that because we've got so many different shows to play and new songs to try!

The Tiger Lillies must be one of the hardest-working bands in the world. Do you have any downtime? What do you do with it?
Right now, I have few days off before our next gig in Katowice, Poland. I'm sitting in a smelly, horrible bus full of people eating burgers, going to Polish mountains with my bad girl/dirty slut. We stopped for lunch in Kraków, then went straight to a sex cinema. I'm a pervert, and I'm happy to admit it. I love sex and fetish clubs. I like perversion even when

Martyn Jacques (centre) in the grotesque face paint he always wears on stage


Say hello to *Bizarre*'s favourite accordion-driven anarchic Brechtian street opera trio

The band rattle through their most notorious song, 'Banging In The Nails'

SHOCK ROCK!

Although The Tiger Lillies are best live, their 20-odd albums are also packed with sick thrills. Here are *Bizarre*'s five favourite Lillies discs…

AD NAUSEAM (1995)
An angry, squawking, frankly deranged album, *Ad Nauseam* was the first Tiger Lillies album *Bizarre* heard, and in many ways it's still our favourite. From the classic stomper 'Dribble' to an early version of 'Snip Snip' from *Shockheaded Peter*, *Ad Nauseam* is sublime.

THE BROTHEL TO THE CEMETERY (1996)
Regarded by many as the best Tiger Lillies album, *The Brothel To The Cemetery* contains the classic songs 'Roll Up', 'Tiger Lillie Line' and the notorious 'Banging In The Nails'. "I'm crucifying Jesus, in my piss he bathes!"

FARMYARD FILTH (1997)
Essentially a depraved concept album about bestiality, *Farmyard Filth* also contains the live favourite 'Auntie Mabel'; a jolly song about a cross-dressing prostitute amputee, who could "take a crew of sailors, each one up her bum!"

SHOCKHEADED PETER (1998)
The soundtrack for the finest stage show *Bizarre* has ever seen, listening to *Shockheaded Peter* brings back warm memories of being in the front row for this oddball production that mixed puppetry, twisted music and outrageous performances into an unforgettable experience.

THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER (2012)
Perhaps The Tiger Lillies' most ambitious and touching album, *The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner* beautifully captures the band as they are today, and is a fine introduction for the uninitiated.

I'm not even directly into it. I go to sex clubs in Berlin, Paris and London – they're full of nice people, no violence or drunkenness. I think they're healthy places.

Although your music has been consistently strong, many people – particularly in London – still associate The Tiger Lillies with the stage show *Shockheaded Peter*, as it was such a unique and memorable play. Did you ever feel any pressure to 'live up' to *Shockheaded Peter*?

For some people, memories are always better than the present. For example, lots of old people living in former Communist countries miss Communism, because they remember that as the most beautiful time of their lives, because they were young, had lovers and so on. And I think it's the same with art. I wonder if people who loved *Shockheaded Peter* 20 years ago would still like it if they saw it today? It was a good show, but things have become mythologised.

"I'M A PERVERT, AND I'M HAPPY TO ADMIT IT. I LOVE SEX AND FETISH CLUBS. I GO TO SEX CLUBS IN BERLIN, PARIS AND LONDON. THEY'RE HEALTHY PLACES!"

Do you have any plans for live shows or albums without the rest of The Tiger Lillies?

I'm playing some solo shows at the Soho Theatre in London this summer. I'm playing my own soundtrack for the iconic silent film, *The Cabinet Of Dr Caligari*. When I was 14, my first piano teacher was Florence De Jong, an old lady who'd been a famous theatre organist and played along with silent films. I've always remembered Florence, and this is my tribute to her and her profession. For me, silent films were the golden age of cinema. They had a magic and mystery that you don't get with talkies. *The Cabinet Of Dr Caligari* is a fine example. A freak show in a fairground… very Tiger Lillies!

Got any other solo projects in the pipeline?

I'm a great painter, if anyone want to organise an exhibition for me!

To find out more about The Tiger Lillies, take a trip to Tigerlillies.com. Book tickets for Martin Jacques' solo shows at London's Soho Theatre at Sohotheatre.com

Death and murder are common themes in The Tiger Lillies' twisted repertoire

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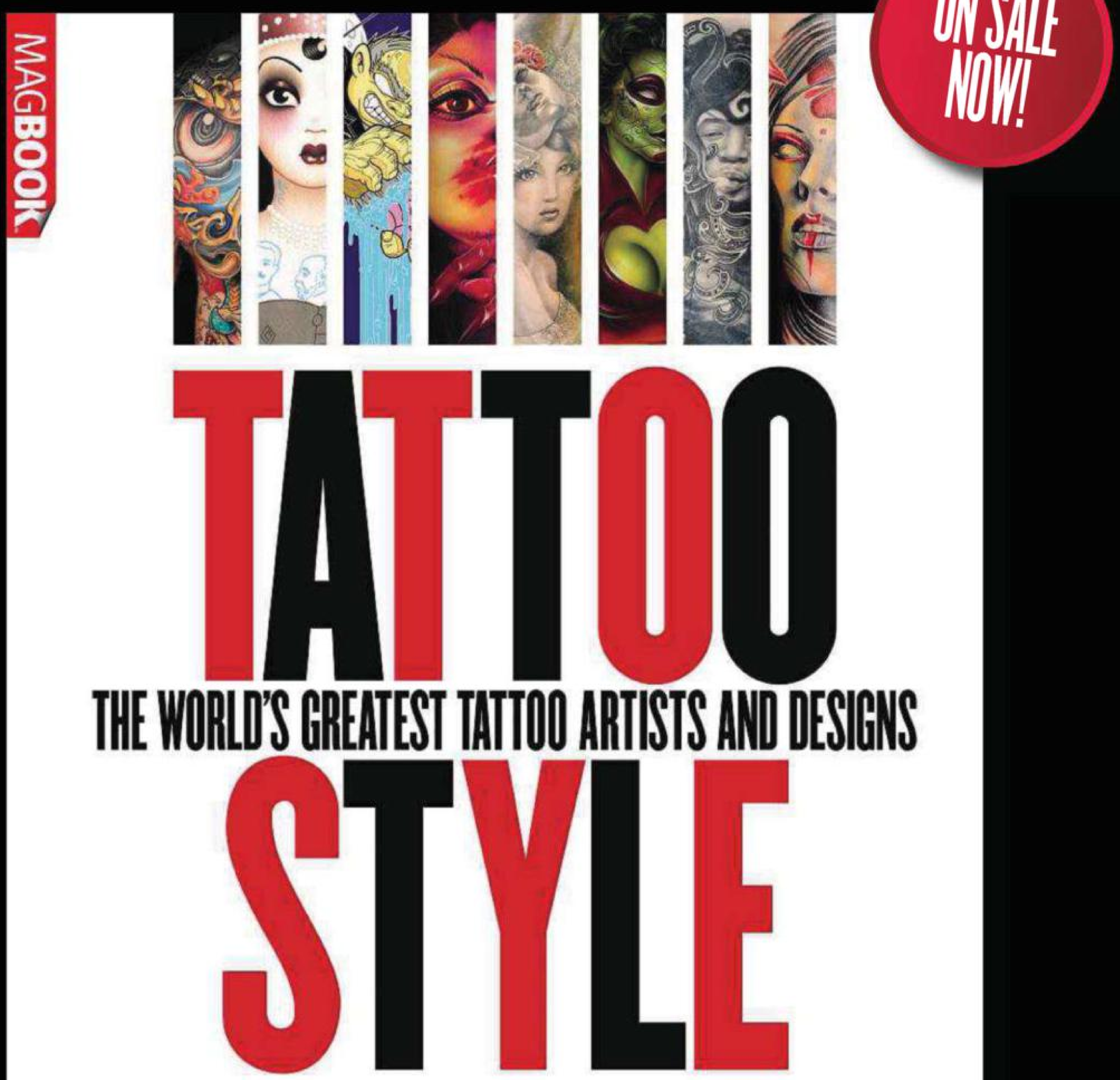

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WORDS **ELEANOR GOODMAN**

TEAM ULTRAVIOLENCE

While *Kick-Ass* explored the bloody consequences of a teenage boy becoming a real-life superhero, its sequel takes events to their logical conclusions… with even sicker results! We caught up with creator Mark Millar to find out more →

KICK-ASS 2

A shot to the dick! Brains on the floor! A child assassin who says 'cunts'! Cast your mind back a few years to *Kick-Ass*. The comicbook and movie adaptation followed Dave Lizewski's mission to become real-life crime-fighter Kick-Ass, teaming up with fellow costumed crusader Red Mist to teach crims a lesson. But by the end, they were enemies…

In *Kick-Ass 2*, Dave joins a superhero league keen to clean up the streets, but Red Mist – now The Mother Fucker – appears with super-villain team The Toxic Mega-Cunts, who rape Dave's love-interest, hang his dad, and gun down a load of kids. Phew! The action comes to a head when both factions clash in a dramatic showdown at New York's Times Square, misdirecting the police and sending society into chaos. Mini-fighter Hit-Girl even rips off a woman's head. Wow. You might wonder, is Mark Millar insane?

But nothing that happens in *Kick-Ass 2* is beyond the realms of possibility, and much of the plot was informed by real-life events. "The first book was, 'What if a little kid tried to be a superhero in the real world with no powers?' And then the second and third books are the consequences of that," explains Millar. "Kick-Ass would influence people to go out and be superheroes, but at the same time there would always be a response to that. So all the little shits out there would be like, 'Oh, I like the idea of putting on a costume and maybe just doing something *bad*'. So Red Mist, who's

Trained assassin Hit-Girl doesn't come out fighting until the last part of *Kick-Ass 2*, until Kick-Ass and the superheroes needs her help

It's heroes vs villains at a bloody battle in New York's Times Square

"IF YOU'VE GOT A BUNCH OF BORED TEENAGERS, AND A RECESSION HITS, TROUBLE IS AN INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE"

a villain by the end of the first book, becomes the figurehead of these little super-villains out there – chavs in costumes doing horrible things and recording it all on their mobile phones."

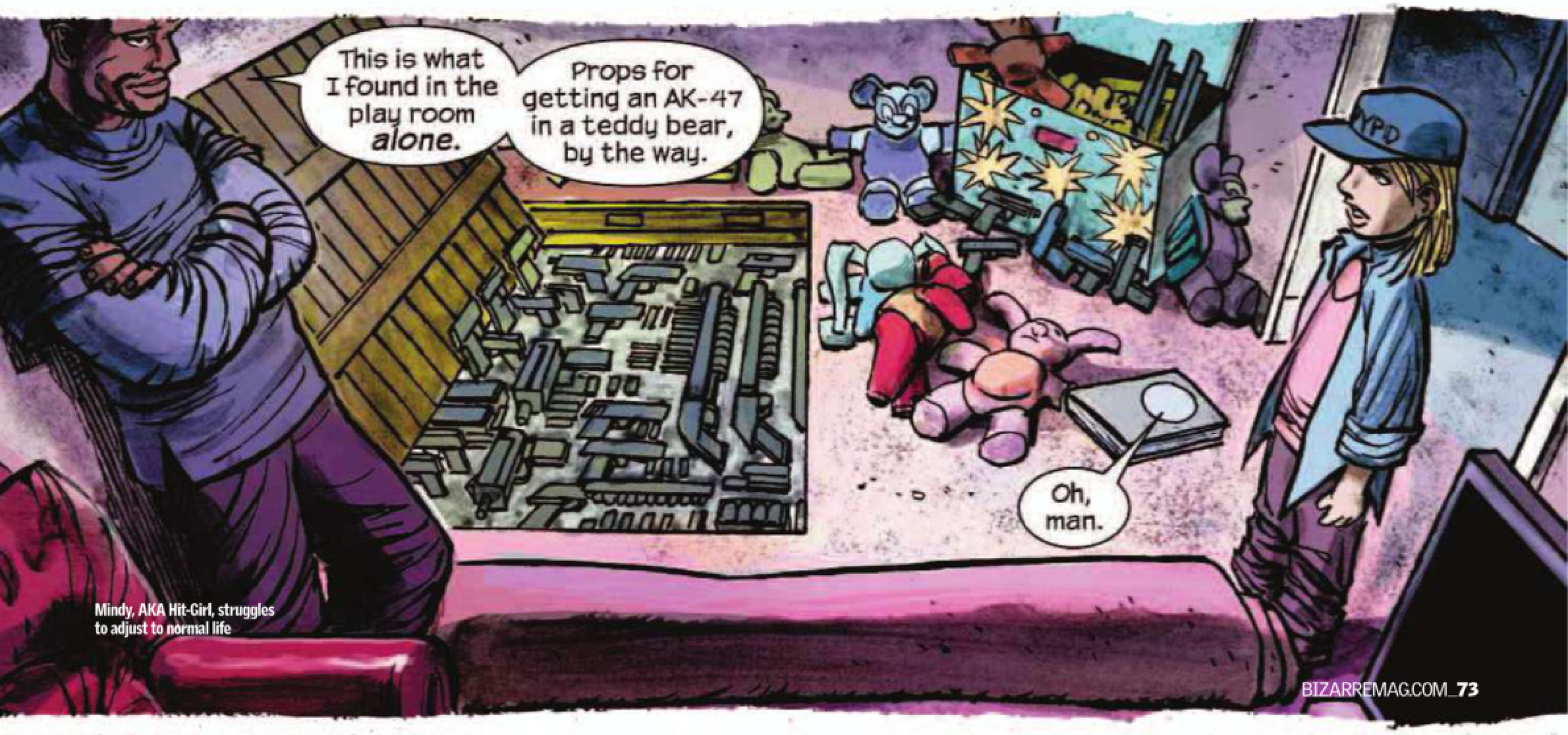
TWISTED LOGIC

Life began imitating art while Millar was writing *Kick-Ass 2*, as the London riots kicked off. News reports showed teenagers disrupting the social order by smashing up shops and running away with flat-screen TVs and trainers, co-ordinating their movements via BlackBerry Messenger and social networks, so the police were absent from the target areas and powerless to stop them.

"It was actually quite odd to be writing it and then watching it on the news that night," remembers Millar. "Because you write comics so quickly, you almost tap into what's going on around you; you don't even realise it. And there must have been something in the air at the time. All the little kids were like, 'We can set fire to a car in one area, send the police there, and then we can rob a store in *another* area…' and this was what was happening in the *Kick-Ass 2* comic. The only difference was they were wearing costumes. So if you've got a bunch of bored teenagers with loads of time and energy on their hands, and a horrible recession hits America and the UK, I guess the trouble is a frightening but inevitable consequence."

As well as tapping into the current criminal climate, Mark looked to the past to provide a template for Red Mist's fucked-up behaviour, and "lifted it all" from the Manson family – the Californian group led by Charles Manson, whose members fatally stabbed actress Sharon Tate, wife of director Roman Polanski.

"We're at quite a similar stage in society, where there's that breakdown in what we perceive as law and order, you know?" reflects Millar. "Coming to the end of the 1960s, and good times, Sharon Tate's murder was this →



Mindy, AKA Hit-Girl, struggles to adjust to normal life

A Justice Forever member floors a gangster

Sophia the dog bites a mobster's junk...

... but she's killed by the Toxic Mega-Cunts, and her head is stuffed on her owner's corpse

massive shock – the idea that celebrity culture was such a big deal, and then it was punctured. I thought it made sense in real life for Red Mist to target celebrities – or the families of the superheroes – like *A Clockwork Orange* did, or the Manson family. I wanted to do the super-villain Charles Manson; something that'd make Heath Ledger look like Cesar Romero's Joker from the *Batman* TV show in the 1960s."

Like Charles Manson, Red Mist doesn't actually *kill* anyone – he just gives the orders to his followers. This is explained in the *Hit-Girl* comic mini-series, where Red Mist tries to commit offences but "gets the shit kicked out of him, because he's just a scrawny little guy".

But with cash to splash and a little old-fashioned persuasion, he hires a bunch of people to do his dirty work. "He finds these people on Twitter," Millar says. "Like the rioters, there are lots of people that are easily manipulated. So they're all sending messages to each other, and saying, 'Let's mess things up!'"

A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

While it makes sense that a villain would hunt the loved ones of a superhero, and subject them to gruesome torture, Millar feels these inevitable storylines are missing from most comics. "I've never really seen a superhero story deal with what would happen if all the people in your private life were affected by your secret identity being exposed," he says. "You always wonder why Batman wears a mask or Superman dresses up as Clark Kent during the day, and you realise it's because this is *exactly* what villains would do to people you love."

One of the most distressing scenes is the implied gang-rape of Kick-Ass's crush, Katie Deauxma. After the villains storm into her home and a henchman puts a bullet in her dad's head, Red Mist punches her in the face, unzips his suit, and grins, "It's time to see what evil dick tastes like." Millar explains that the line has shocked people, but the grim assault is consistent with the character's other violent actions.

"I wanted to do all the most horrible crimes I could imagine, so sexual crime would come into it, too," explains Mark. "It's funny, because super-villains tend to be super-violent and they tend to be super-robbers, but you've never really seen a super-*rapist* before, and I thought that was quite interesting. Again, it's that Manson family thing; it's that thought of super-villains busting into your house and doing something awful."

While the sexual assault is stomach-churningly uncomfortable, the murder of the Justice Forever league leader is utterly grotesque: The Toxic Mega-Cunts shoot him in the stomach, prop his corpse up in a chair, and replace his head with his dead dog's. For once, this wasn't Millar's deformed brainchild.

"Believe it or not, my girlfriend came up with that!" he laughs. "Ha-ha. It's funny, because I was describing the scene to her over dinner, and I said, 'I'm thinking of having his head cut off, and the dog's been killed'. And she's this lovely, privately educated Cambridge grad, and she's the →

"*KICK-ASS* IS PROBABLY THE MOST AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL THING I'VE DONE"

Mark patrols London's back streets, but there's not a super-villain in sight!

sweetest person you could ever meet. And she said, 'What would happen if the dog's head was cut off, and you swap heads, and have the dog's head on *him*'? And I said, 'That'd be *really* good! So I went home and wrote it."

PAIN OF DEATH

But for those who identify with the geeky, ambitious, newly confident Dave, the most agonising moment of the comicbook is when he receives a picture message showing his dead dad. While the delivery of the news is shocking – and consistent with the way *Kick-Ass* shows technology as a source for good *and* evil – it's *grief* that overrides the pages. Without realising, Millar had drawn on the reality of his personal life while writing about the tragic event.

"*Kick-Ass* is probably the most autobiographical thing I've done," he considers. "Even though I'm saying this out loud, I hadn't even considered this. I knew that my mum dying at the same age as Kick-Ass – when he was 14 – was something I did semi-intentionally. But then his dad obviously dies in the sequel too, when Kick-Ass is 18, the age *I* was when *my* dad died. So some things are even creeping in subconsciously, which I'll maybe realise six months after I've written something – oh God, that's from my life too. I guess you just write about what you know, don't you?"

The Toxic Mega-Cunts blast a cop car

The final volume of *Kick-Ass* will see Dave dealing with the aftermath of his father's passing, like other superheroes before him. "Well, it's interesting, because Dave's always been a kid who's trying to be like Batman, but hadn't really had that vengeful tragedy thing happen to him. But then suddenly he's almost manoeuvred his life into a situation where he has had his dad killed, and it's his fault, and he has that Spider-Man or Batman kind of guilt," Millar says. "We pick up the third book a couple of years later, and he's just a slightly different person by that point – a bit more bad-ass and resolute about what's coming next."

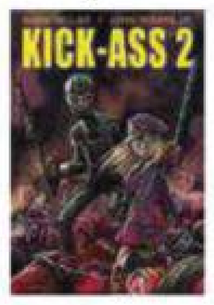
MOVIE MAYHEM

The film version of *Kick-Ass 2* is currently in development with the original cast, and not content with exploding superhero myths, Millar's also working on spy franchise *Secret Service* with Matthew Vaughn, a *Nemesis* adaptation with Joe Carnahan (*The A-Team*), and movies of Bible sequel *American Jesus* and heist *Supercrooks*.

But despite Millar's graphic stories, he says his house is a violence-free zone. "I've got a strict no-swearing policy!" he laughs. "We have a strict no-murder policy in the house as well. I actually quite like things to be quite strait-laced. I'm a dad of two daughters, I go to mass, I'm a Catholic, and yet the comics are probably the most horrible that you can possibly buy. I don't know… maybe that's *my* secret identity."

Bizarre just hope super-villains don't discover his address…

Kick-Ass 2, by Mark Millar and John Romita Jr, is published by Titan, £18.99



PICTURES: ARTWORK (C) MARK MILLAR AND JOHN ROMITA JNR; PORTRAIT: TOM BROADBENT

"RED MIST BECOMES A FIGUREHEAD FOR ALL THESE SUPER-VILLAINS — CHAVS IN COSTUMES DOING HORRIBLE THINGS"

Red Mist and his gang of miscreants get ready to brawl

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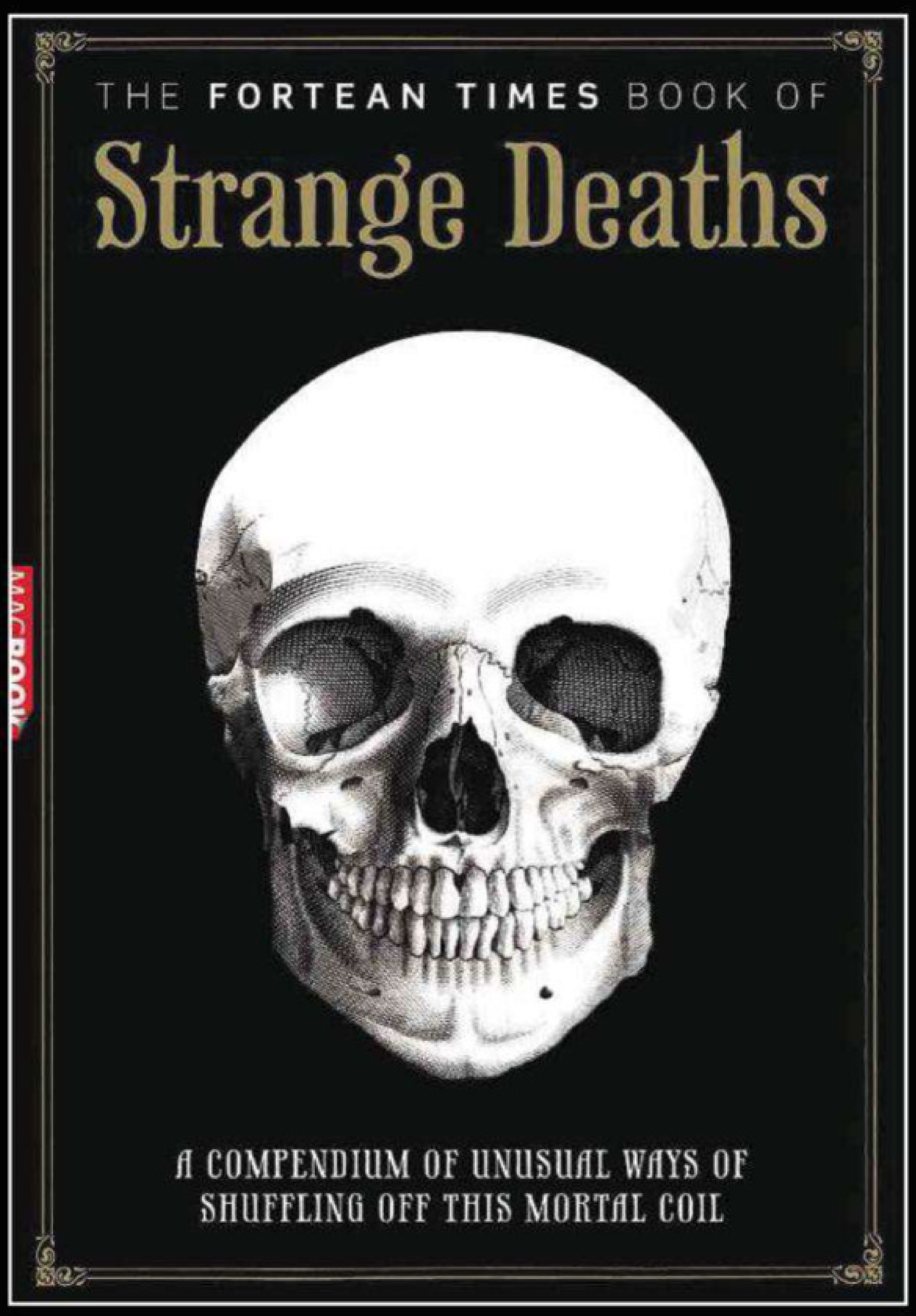

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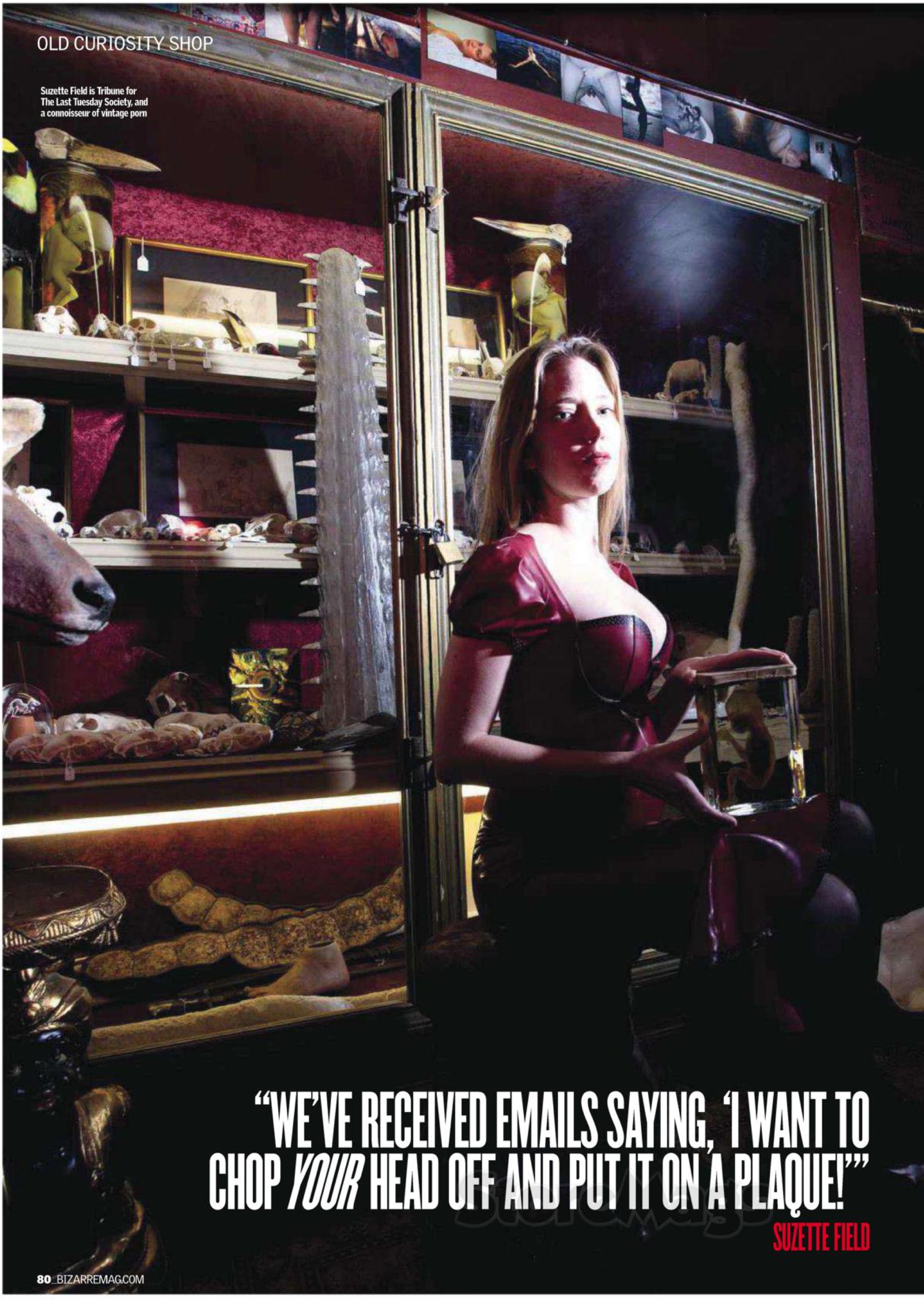
OLD CURIOSITY SHOP

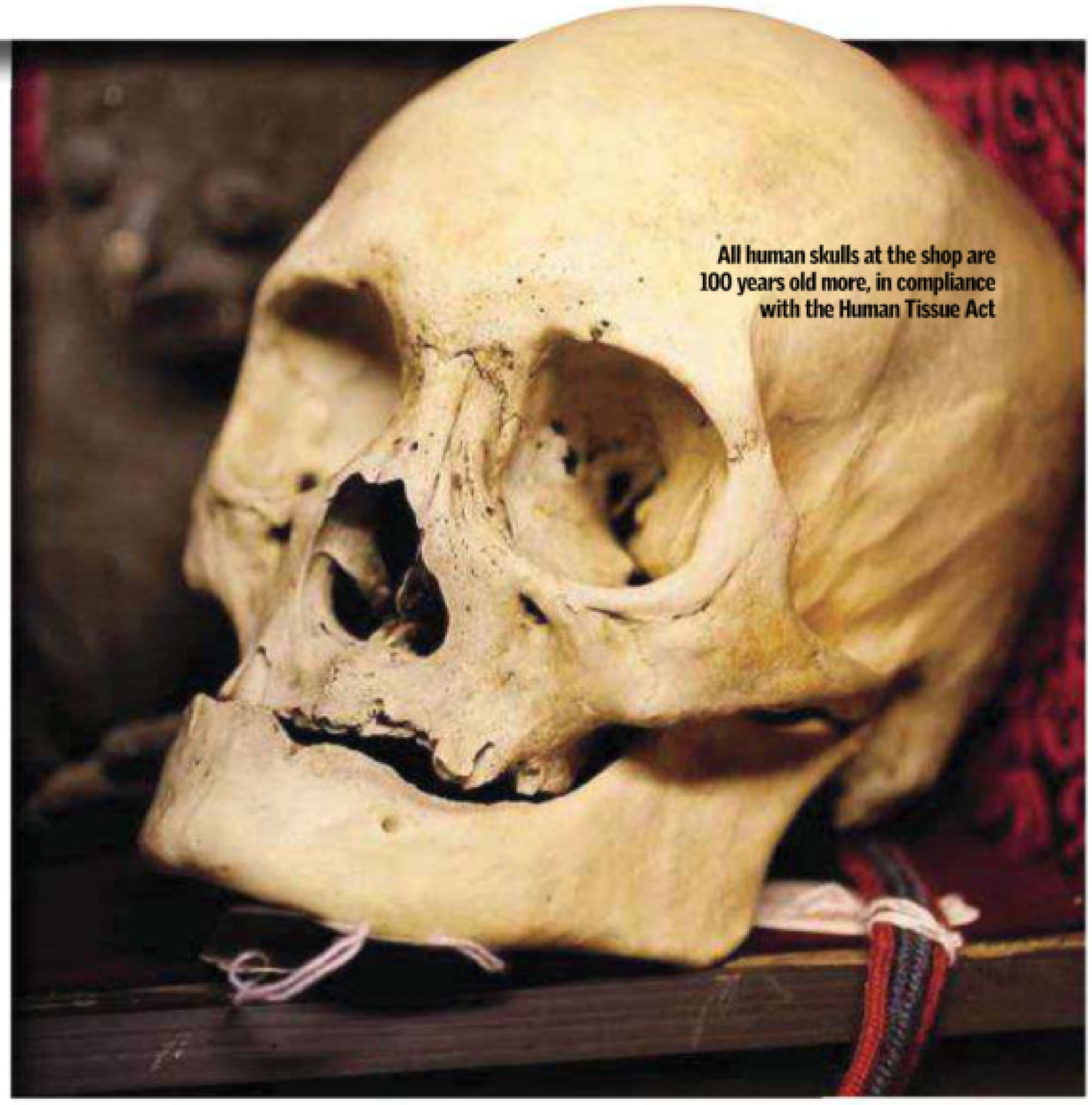
Suzette Field is Tribune for The Last Tuesday Society, and a connoisseur of vintage porn



"WE'VE RECEIVED EMAILS SAYING, 'I WANT TO CHOP *YOUR* HEAD OFF AND PUT IT ON A PLAQUE!'"

SUZETTE FIELD

A jar of Viktor's used johnnies takes pride of place on his souvenir shelf



All human skulls at the shop are 100 years old more, in compliance with the Human Tissue Act

Deformed bones, historical artefacts, a giant sea woodlouse, gynaecological instruments and jars of celebrity faeces… *Bizarre* is standing in the murky basement of The Last Tuesday Society, London. Peering into brightly lit glass cabinets, we're trying to figure out which items are genuine and which are playfully fake. Hosted over two floors, and nestled on Hackney's busy Mare Street, this gallery-cum-museum-cum-freak show emporium is the love child of artist and dishevelled dandy, Viktor Wynd, and impresario and writer, Suzette Field.

In 2009, the duo merged their spoils and took over the building as a temporary chamber to hold their irregular goods. Viktor's ever-growing collection of art and oddities were in danger of suffocating him in his own home, while Suzette had amassed an impressive vintage porn stash after running a cinema club in East London showing Super 8 films. Nearly three years on, and this bizarre boutique is still attracting fans of the unfamiliar.

Back in the basement, Viktor is clutching a walrus' penis bone and giving *Bizarre* a tour of the cluttered rooms beneath the gallery that has hosted the delicate skeletal fairy and insect creations of Birmingham artist, Tessa Farmer, featured previously in these pages (see *Bizarre 182*). Suzette, heavily pregnant but perfectly shoehorned into an Atsuko Kudo latex dress, is on hand to guide us back to reality when Viktor's descriptions and stories become a little, er, suspect.

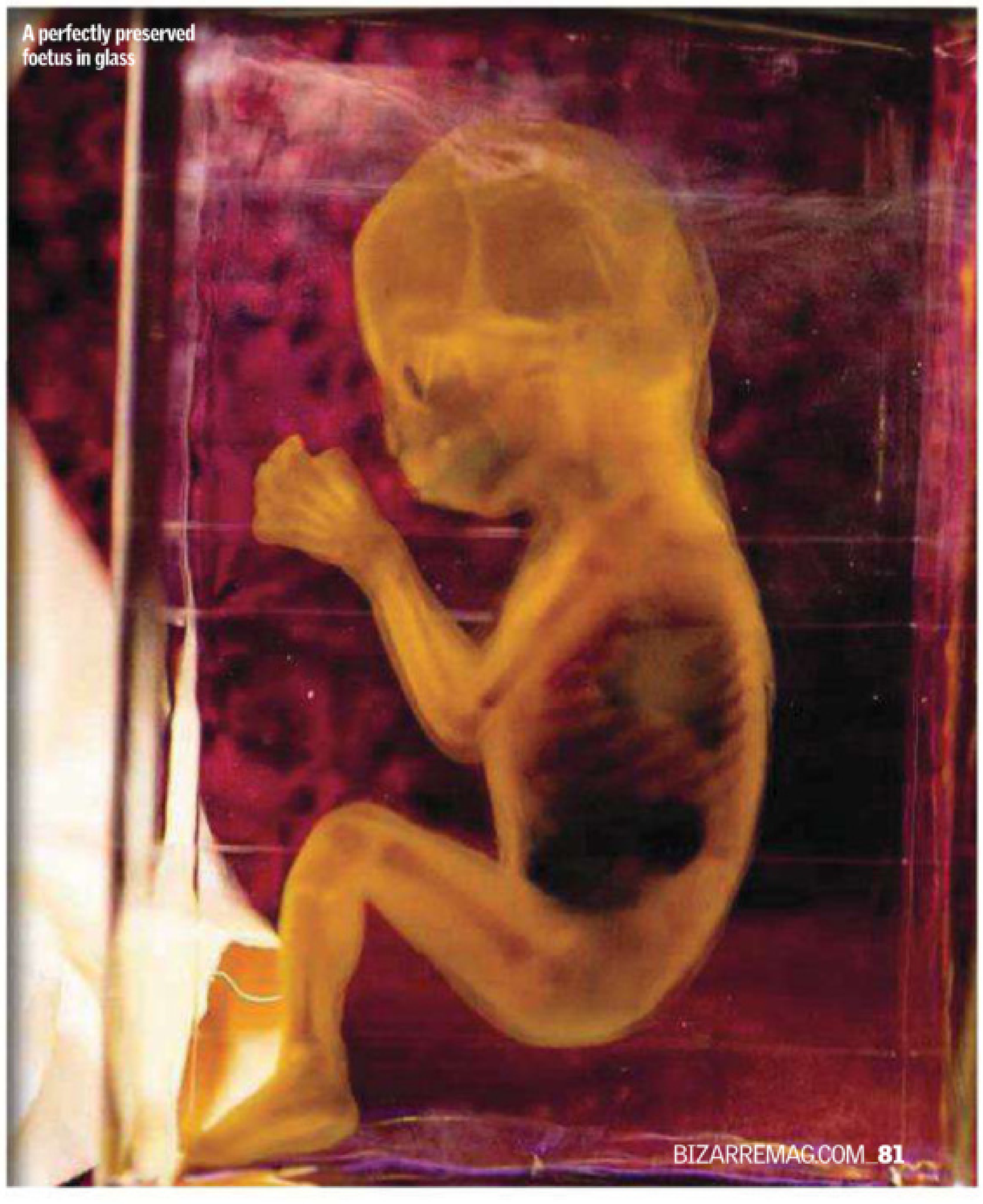
"I used to be a Catholic altar boy, but you can believe those stains are candle wax if you want to," he says, pointing at what he calls the 'blow job stool' with a twinkle in his eye. "The priests found that, when kneeling, the young boys' heads didn't quite line up, so these came in very handy."

PISS ARTISTS

A lot of the items housed here find their way to Viktor, including a phial alleged to contain Russell Crowe's piss, sent from a man who claimed to have got drunk with the actor at Claridge's, and persuaded him to provide a urine sample for Viktor's unusual collection. Suzette hunts the rest down at auctions, while authentic dealers supply taxidermy pets. We home in on a severed 'trigger finger' said to belong to notorious Mexican bandit Francisco 'Pancho' Villa, a replica of Napoleon's death mask, and some unidentifiable bones.

"Human bones over 100 years old can legally be sold in the shop," explains Viktor. "We've had enquiries such as, 'My gran's just died and I've →

A rose quartz penis statue is perfect as a "casual paper weight"



A perfectly preserved foetus in glass

This doll is long overdue for a dental check-up

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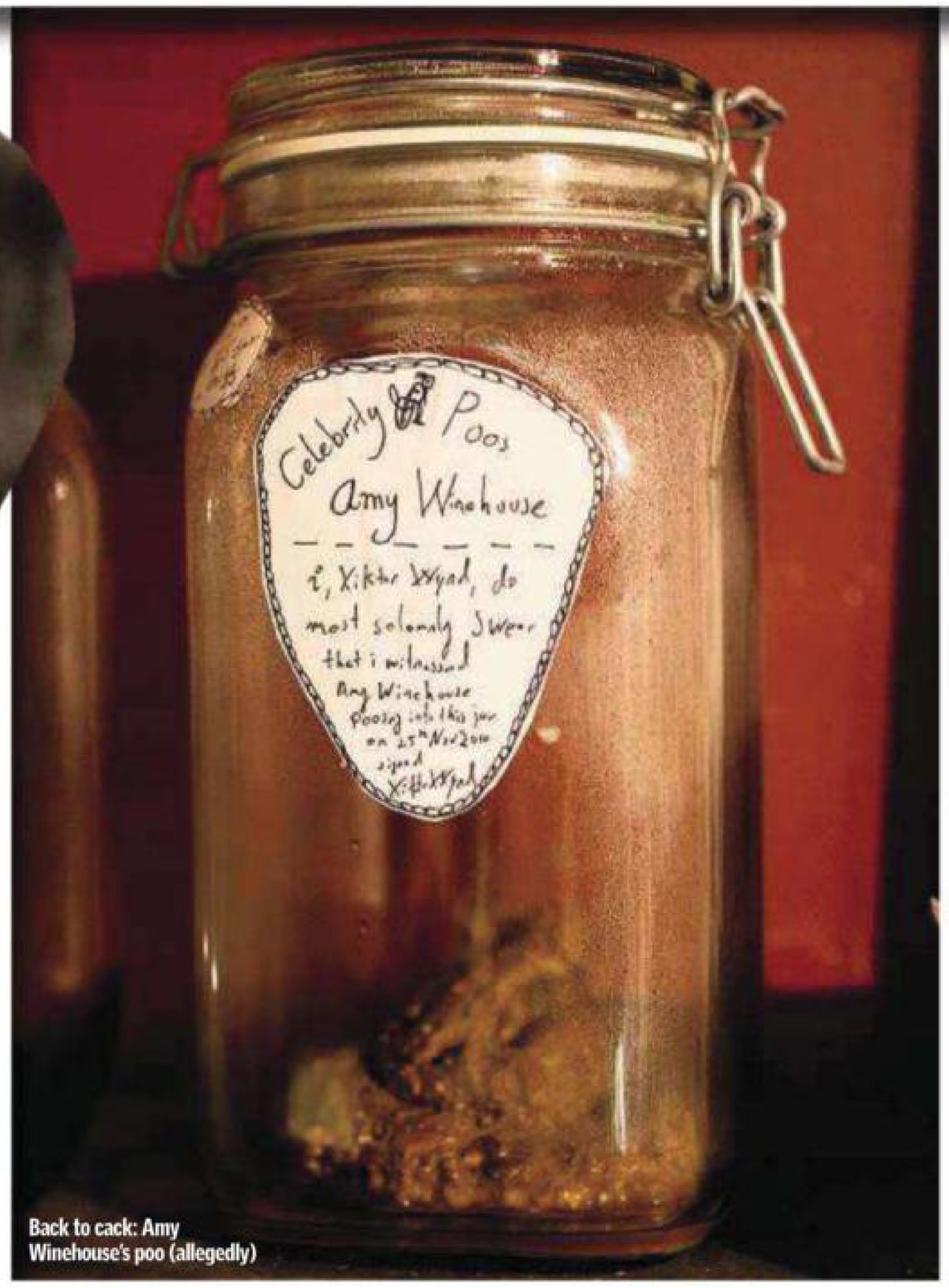
The Labrador head that's upset a few punters



Back to cack: Amy Winehouse's poo (allegedly)

heard you buy old bones. She was a practical lady and didn't want a funeral, do you want her?' But it's no good chopping up granny."

"It's the Labrador head that causes the most complaints," says Suzette. "It's an iconic British dog, so people tend to get a bit upset. We've received emails saying, 'I want to chop *your* head off and put it on a plaque!' We have to explain that all the taxidermy we carry is vintage and above board."

Viktor also has a keen eye for the spurious. Alongside the bona fide artefacts, we spy a jar that contains, if the label is to be believed, Amy Winehouse's poo. There's a box of Russell Brand's thick, black pubes and a dried, shrivelled mermaid corpse hanging on the wall. Even one of Viktor's used condoms is presented in a box. Perhaps it's a keepsake from a committed relationship?

"Committed relationships? What, like a whole night?" he jokes. "I keep all my used condoms. I used to have them all lined up next to each other labelled for each day: 'Monday', 'Tuesday', 'Tuesday Afternoon'... They're memories of intimacy between me and another person. Why would I throw them away?"

The Last Tuesday Society received a present list for William and Kate's royal wedding, requesting items from them. Did the Duchess of Cornwall put in an order for one of Viktor's used rubbers? "I'm not at liberty to say," he smirks. "But I wouldn't mind buying one of theirs."

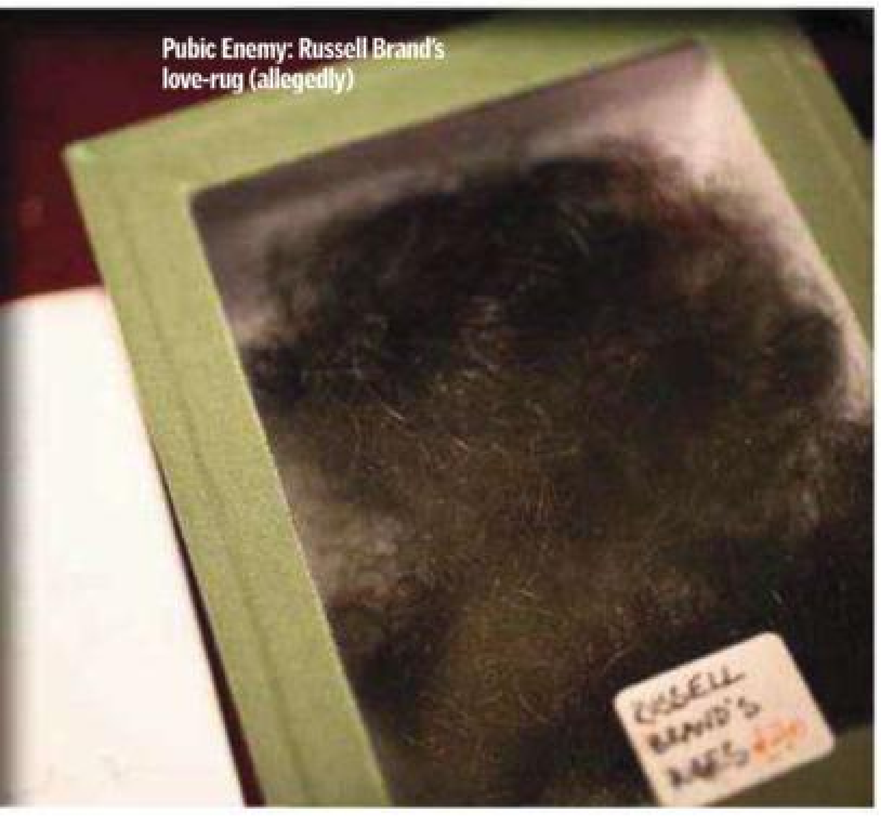
EXQUISITE CORPSES

Spunky souvenirs aside, there are plenty of exquisite and genuine finds. Take the 19th-century shrunken head belonging to a missionary who, after going the wrong way up an Ecuadorian river, encountered a tribe who took a shine to him from the neck up. Or there's the 18th-century slave skull from America, the oldest example of human remains on the premises.

This furry critter guards a wall of taxidermy pets

Of all the human remains on sale at the shop, this 19th-century shrunken head is the oldest

A replica of Napoleon's death mask, based on one of four genuine masks known to exist



Pubic Enemy: Russell Brand's love-rug (allegedly)

Maybe the pickled fetuses from the Dresden Anatomical Museum, or the sketch from notorious British criminal, Charles Bronson, entitled 'Nightmares Of A Damaged Brain' are more your cup of tea?

Bizarre can't help but notice the fully-grown lioness, sitting on a chair at the head of a wooden table. She's wearing a rather fetching fez. "Viktor assuages his guilt about her by holding animal-themed parties and raising funds for animal sanctuaries," Suzette says.

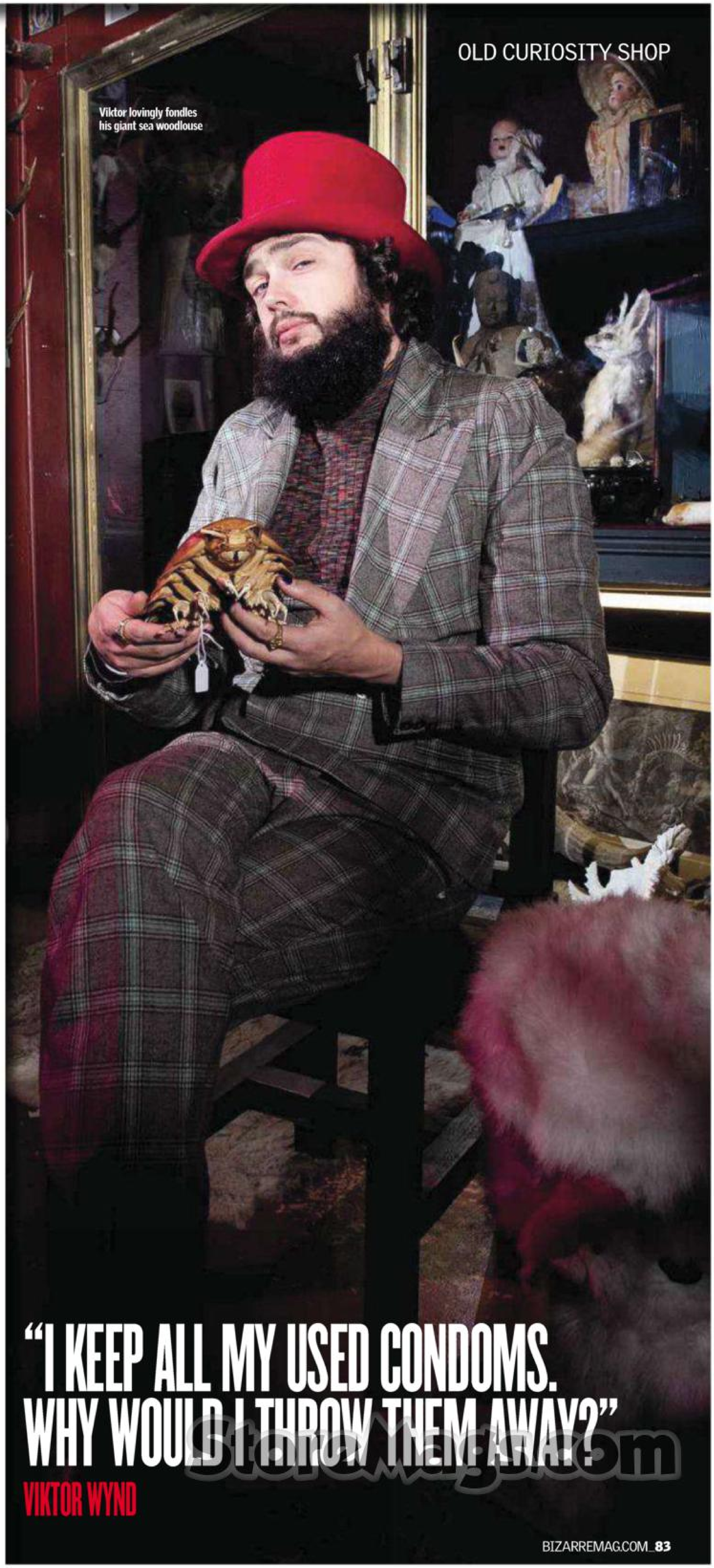
Apparently this beast wasn't procured from a taxidermy shop. "I picked her on a website, flew out to South Africa, and shot her at a game park," says Viktor, once again with a fibbing glint in his eye. "It's cheaper than going into the wild with a gun where you can't guarantee that you'll see an animal. This is like a zoo where they release the chosen animal into a large, fenced-off area that feels like the wild, because you can't see the edges of the pen. You turn up, have a cup of tea, and they give you a gun."

The pair regularly hold extravagant balls with prizes awarded for the 'Beastliest Behaviour' and 'The Kangaroo With The Biggest Pouch', and on-the-spot charity fines for those wearing ugly items of clothing.

And the Society is more than a modern-day *wunderkabinett*. While you can mooch around ogling the treasures and nonsense on display, the exhibition space also hosts events such as gothic magic nights, tantric sex education and extreme taxidermy (the lecture calendar mentions 'elephants and humans' as discussion points).

The good news is that pretty much everything in the gallery basement is for sale. Pick up a mummified mouse, or take home the shrunken head from Ecuador. It's a bargain at £9,000.

For more info, tickets, event schedules and podcasts, visit Thelasttuesdaysociety.org. Suzette Field's new book, *A Curious Invitation: The Forty Greatest Parties In Literature*, is published by Picador this October. Follow her at Twitter.com/suzettefield



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No.24 Matt Black

Every month, *Bizarre* celebrates the world's finest tattooists. Only the best flesh artists deserve our **Inking Icon** accolade

WORDS **ELEANOR GOODMAN**
PHOTOS **ESTER SEGARRA, MATT BLACK**

THE GENTLE GIANT

Matt Black earned his name by doing powerful black work, but he also tattoos intricate neo-tribal designs and cares for his clients →

He towers over everyone he meets, works at what he describes as "the most extreme" tattoo shop in London, and has a rodent inked on his upper right arm to represent his place in The Black Rats society, whose members have over 80 per cent black work on their body and mainly do black work. Yet Matt Black is the friendliest tattooist that *Bizarre*'s ever met.

"Lucky Diamond Rich and Xed Le Head (Matt's colleague, and former Inking Icon) started The Black Rats many years ago, and then it fizzled out, and me and (scarification expert) Iesytn decided to do it again. Why did we choose rats? I don't know, actually! A black *elephant* doesn't sound so good, does it? Or a black Chihuahua!" he laughs. "I like rats, though. They survive."

Matt Black – or Matthew Norman to his mum – has not only survived, but thrived. Working out of Xed's Divine Canvas shop in Kings Cross, London, he inks ornamental designs incorporating black and tribal styles, which he's refined to perfection over the last decade.

TRIBAL BEHAVIOUR

Covered head-to-toe in swirling patterns, you'd never guess Matt got his first tattoo as late as age 21. Growing up in Swindon, Wiltshire, he was put off by the "not nice" tattoos his friends were doing on each other in their bedrooms. But in the 1990s, he took the plunge and got a Celtic band inked on his right arm.

It was another five years before Matt seriously started thinking about tattoos again, researching them in magazines, and a feature about London's influential Into You soon inspired him to continue his inking journey. "That was when there was a proper renaissance in tattooing in England," he remembers. "Alex Binnie, Curly and Steve Herring were doing tattoos I'd never seen before, and they were on a bigger scale – a lot more ethnic, oriental and tribal. That was it for me."

Matt relocated to Manchester and indulged in his obsession, getting heavily inked by Tomas Tomas – AKA French Tomas – who was still learning his craft. They both started going under the needle at Into You, but the turning point came when Xed began inking Thomas by hand, using a chopstick cut in half with a needle tied to it with cotton. One day, Thomas took the tool home, made a copy for himself, and tattooed Matt. In turn, Matt kept that tool, made another, and marked his neck and hands with tribal designs.

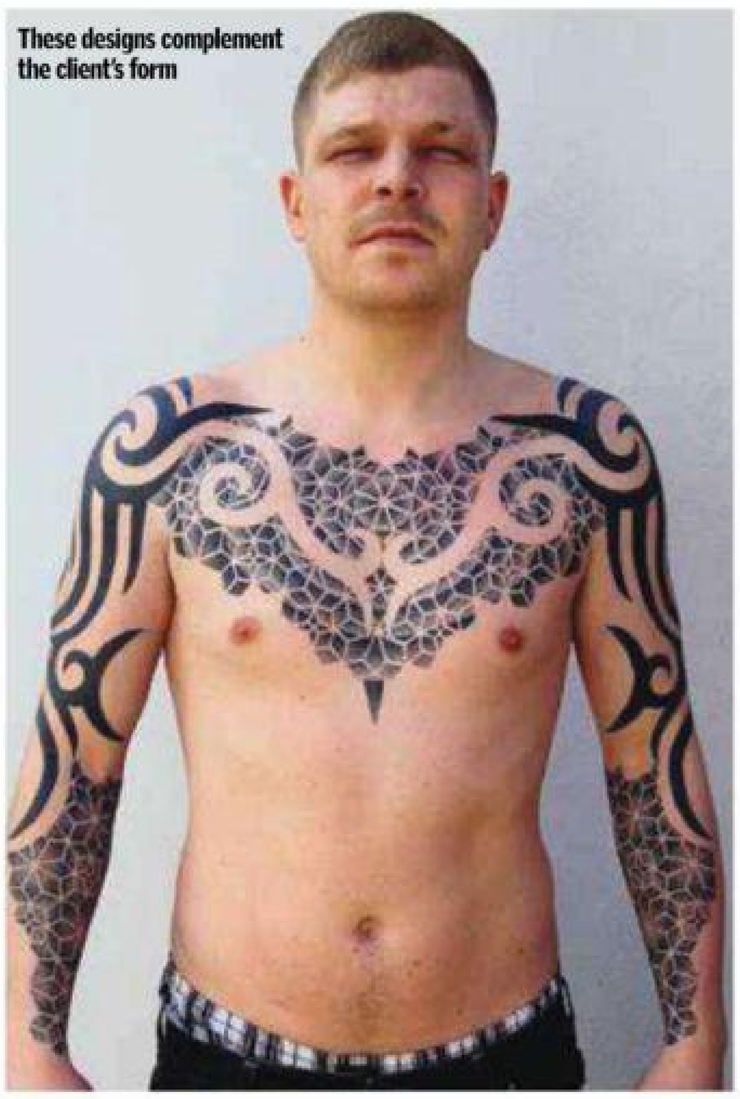
"I tattooed myself visibly so that I couldn't get a normal job anymore," Matt explains. "Here was something I could do, and not have to lead a conventional life. This was something that meant I couldn't turn back on my decision. And then I started tattooing my friends."

"I wore a surgeon's mask while I tattooed an old grandad's cock – otherwise I would've retched!"

"I think Xed gave me the name Matt Black, and it fits. People seem to like it a lot. I wouldn't mind changing my name officially, but I might upset my mum!" laughs Matt

MEN IN BLACK

Matt, then 30, "jumped in at the deep end" and took a job doing hand work at Manchester's



These designs complement the client's form

Matt describes his black work as "powerful"

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Sacred Art, owned by Mark Armstrong. He also started "playing about with machines", learning how to create details and make needles. Neo-tribal designs were popular at the time, though he tried to talk clients into getting traditional work from Borneo or the Marquesas islands in the South Pacific instead. But soon, Matt faced an unusual challenge that was outside his comfort zone.

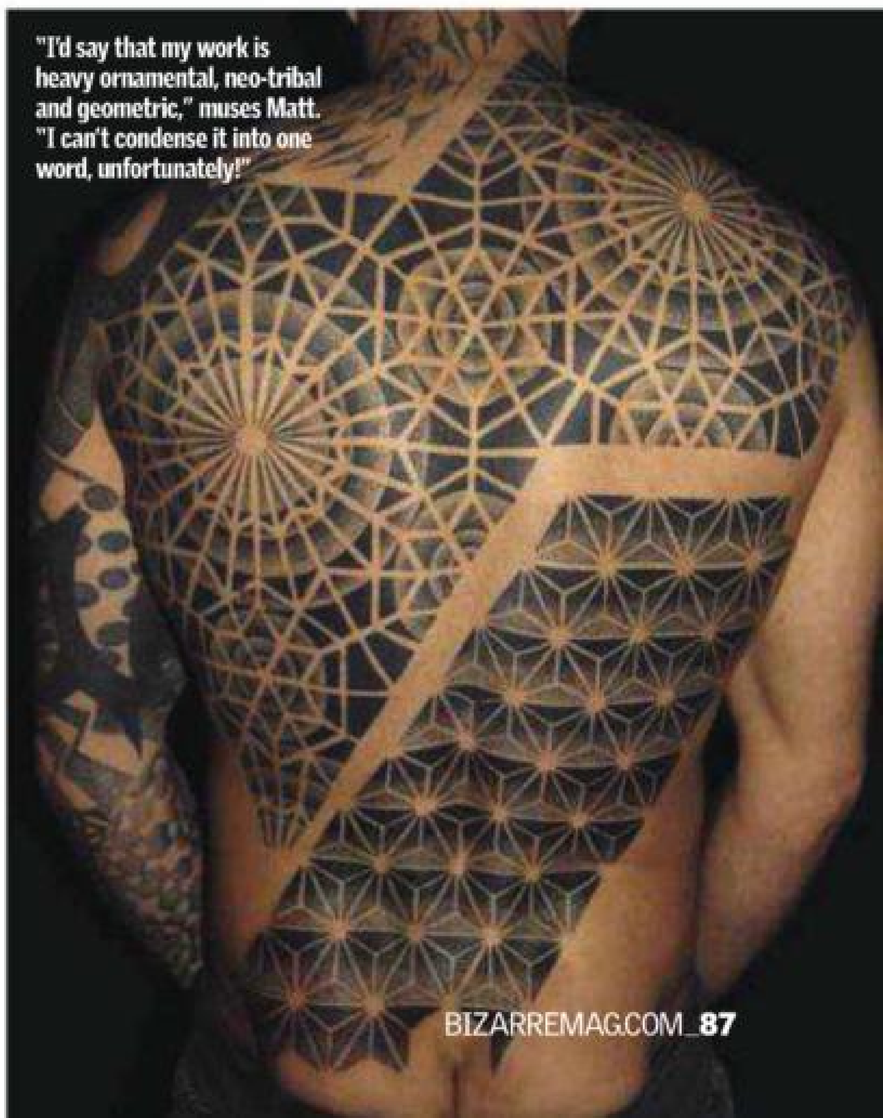
"This guy came in who looked like a nice old granddad, until he took his trousers off!" he exclaims. "He had lots of piercings and wanted us to tattoo his pubic area, onto his cock. My boss said, 'I don't want to do it – you have to do it.' I was like, 'Alright, fair enough,'" he grins. "It was just some black tribal work, so it was quick… but it was quite whiffy. I wore a surgeon's mask – otherwise I would've retched!"

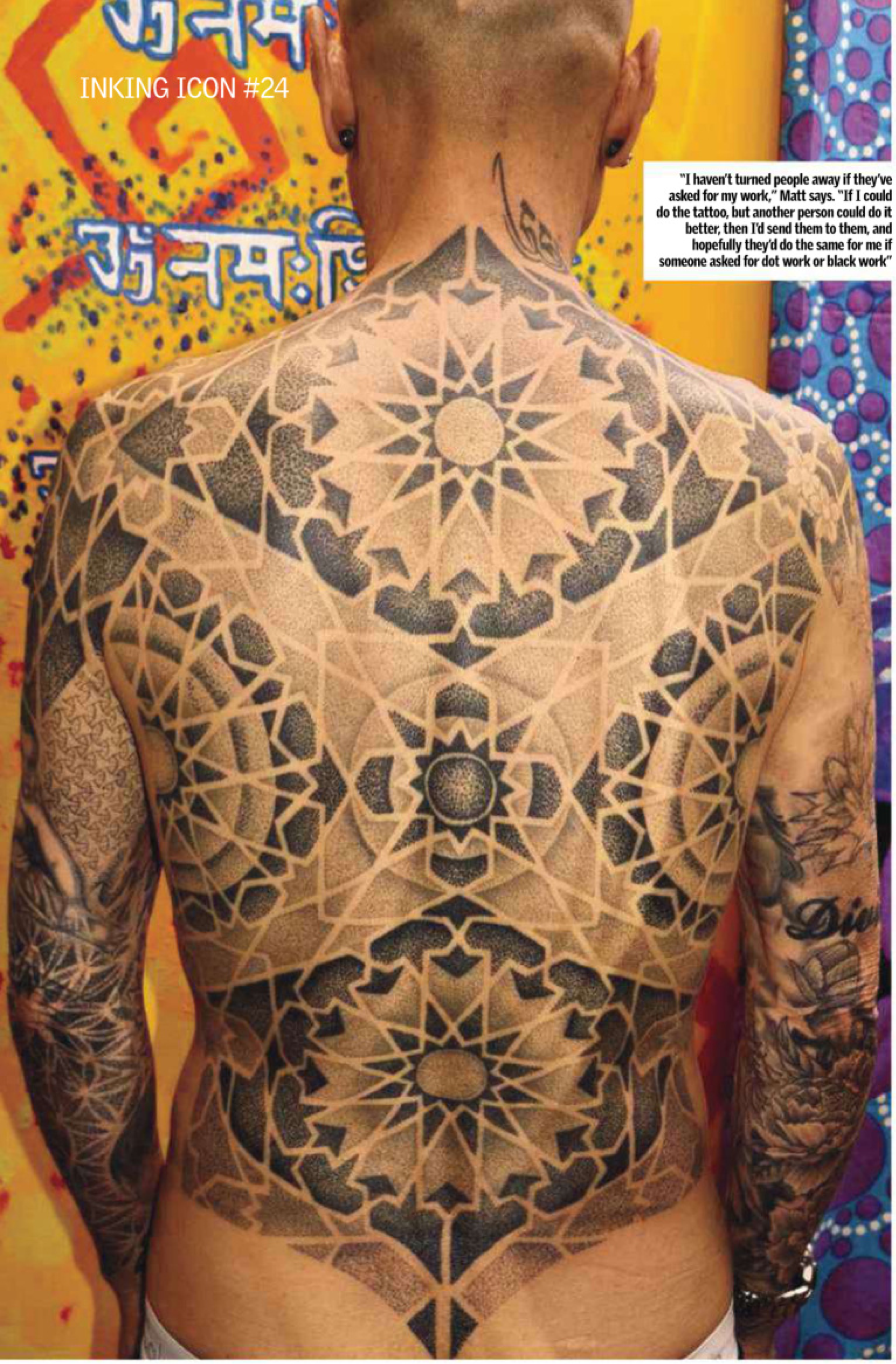
After three years loyal service, Matt relocated to Bluefire in Chingford, where he had another strange request. "I tattooed a rugby ball with wings on a man's chest!" he laughs. "I drew it up for him – there wasn't one on the wall…"

Matt's next big step was a job at London's New Wave Tattoo studio, owned by inking icon Lal Hardy, where he tattooed writing around the neck of Melanie from All Saints and learned about the commercial side of needle-wielding. "Lal's had a shop since the 1970s, so he has a good business head on him," Matt says. "He taught me a lot about that kind of thing, which was good."

DIVINE INTERVENTIONS

While Matt's style has stayed the same, he's honed his techniques over time, learning from colleagues and conventions. "My work's become a lot richer," he explains, "and I seem to be tattooing a lot more girls at the moment, which is good. I think they just thought I did heavy black work, which is solid and aggressive… well, not aggressive, but *powerful*. But I've been doing a lot more of the mehndi, Indian, paisley and henna-style stuff, which is very beautiful on women, and putting it out there. So girls are saying, 'Oh, you can do detailed work.'" →





"I haven't turned people away if they've asked for my work," Matt says. "If I could do the tattoo, but another person could do it better, then I'd send them to them, and hopefully they'd do the same for me if someone asked for dot work or black work"

"I'm not religious, but I'm definitely a spiritual person," says Matt, who tattoos designs from different cultures

"When you work in dots, you can slow yourself down, which enables you to push boundaries and do more accurate detail," Matt explains

"I've been doing a lot more of the mehndi, Indian, paisley and henna-style stuff, which is very beautiful on women"

Ever considerate of his clients' needs, Matt once tattooed some dot work over a skin graft on a girl's arm after another tattooist refused. "She was really upset by that," Matt remembers, quietly. "I was saying, 'Of course we can tattoo you – that's no problem at all.' It was an emotional thing for her; she basically couldn't go out, or wear short-sleeved dresses. It really affected her life. And she went away really happy, and texted me the week after to say she'd met a guy and everything, so that's cool. This is what I do it for. I'm really bad at saying 'no' to people – I always try to make it work, whatever I do."

This might sound cheesy coming from some people, but Matt sounds incredibly sincere. He'll never turn people away if they ask for his work, though he'll refer them to another tattooist if he thinks their style would be better suited for the job. It's an admirable 'pay-it-forward' ideal, mindful of everyone's needs. Modest Matt plans to stay in London for the next decade, but ultimately open a little shop somewhere by the sea. "I don't need a lot of money to survive – luckily I'm not materialistic in any way, really," says Matt. "I haven't got a car, or a house or anything; I think it makes me happier, actually."

SPIRIT IN THE FLY

Working at a place called Divine Canvas and following transcendent tattoo traditions, Matt says he's "definitely a spiritual person". Again, he's genuine as he talks about the emotional impact of his body art. "It's almost like a part of me is on them, and it's always going to be there – they're always going to remember that I did that tattoo," he says. "It's so personal that you need to give a person a good experience. A lot of my customers and I have become friends."

This divinity and good humour extends to his own collection of ink, and he's got an unfinished hand-tapped pattern on his pubic area. "It's a fishnet design, that will extend across my penis. It's traditional for women and men to have a fishnet there, because it's like the catch, you know?" he smiles. "It was very painful. It bruised right down my cock, and it hurt when I pressed it, so I didn't press it… at least, not all the time!"

See Mattblacktattoo.wordpress.com and Divine-canvas.com

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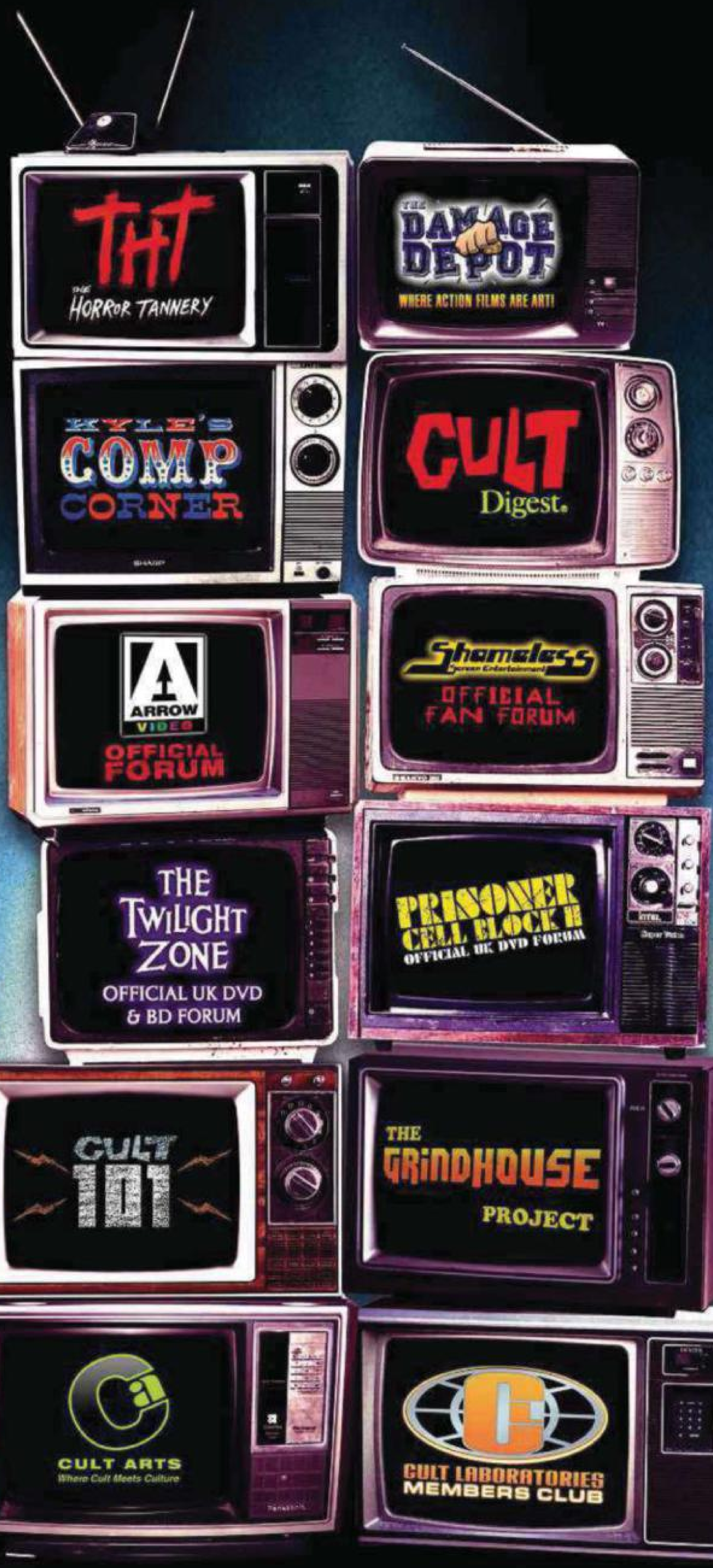

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ALWAYS FIRST WITH NEWS ON THE SICKEST TREATS COMING YOUR WAY

THE SQUEALER

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Pick up sex advice in *How To Be Kinker*. We're there with bells on! 109

YOU REVIEW!

Chat about stuff featured in The Squealer on our Facebook page (search for '**Bizarre magazine**'), tell us what you think via Twitter (**@bizarremagazine**), or email your rants to Bizarre's Junk Mail letters page at **Bizarre@blackthorncommunications.com**

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HOT THIS MONTH

Is your spending limited by the icy grip of recession? Then let us help you choose the best stuff money can buy until the next issue of *Bizarre* hits the shelves on **28 AUGUST**...

FILM

THE POSSESSION

Don't open the box!

OUT 31 AUGUST

Although he's acting as producer rather than director, the fact that Sam Raimi – the man behind *The Evil Dead* – is working on *The Possession* makes it *Bizarre*'s big-screen pick of the month.

The story of a young girl who buys an antique box, unaware that an evil spirit is lurking inside, *The Possession* feels like a modern-day take on *The Exorcist*. But while the 1973 classic used shadows and suspense to shape its tale of demonic soul-squatting, *The Possession* is packed with creepy CGI effects that are shocking and imaginative, and will leave you feeling creeped-out long after the end credits have rolled.

Perhaps the most interesting thing about *The Possession* is that it's based on the true story of a man who bought an old wine cabinet on eBay, but was beset by bad luck as soon as he opened it. Like in the movie, the unlucky punter claimed that a dybbuk, a spirit from Jewish folklore, had been released when he opened the box, and was intent on destroying his life. And, for us at least, this claim of real-life ghost aggression makes *The Possession* even more scary.

DVD

OUTPOST: BLACK SUN

Nazi zombies on the rampage!

OUT 27 AUGUST

In 2008 the original *Outpost* became an unexpected horror hit, rising above its low-budget, B-movie roots to deliver zombie action that was original, skillfully executed and deliciously scary. While the inevitable sequel ditches the first movie's forboding atmosphere and scintillating suspense in favour of a more action-packed approach, *Black Sun* is still an undead adventure to cherish. Best of all are the explosive battle scenes that pit modern-day soldiers against ruthless Nazi zombies, and which adopt a clever point-of-view perspective that makes you feel as if you're in the thick of a hopeless fight, filling your pants as you try to keep the fascist shufflers at bay.

BOOK

ALL I EVER WANTED

A touching tale of young love and rock'n'roll

CARL-PETER HOUGH
OUT NOW

Although *All I Ever Wanted* lacks the zombies, gore and weird sex we normally look for when recommending a book to *Bizarre* readers, this warm-hearted tale of young love and life in a rock'n'roll band marks Carl-Peter Hough as a talent to watch. Written in a modest, direct style that makes the book hard to put down – and with a mastery of language that can have you laughing or sobbing in the space of a few sentences – *All I Ever Wanted* is sentimental without being mawkish, touching without being cheesy, and makes *Bizarre* glad to be alive.

MUSIC

DEAD END KINGS

Swedish metallers offer more darkness

KATATO NIA

OUT 27 AUGUST

This is the perfect soundtrack to the 'summer' weather we've been having, which makes us want to hole up indoors and cry. Picking up where 2009's *Night Is The New Day* left off, the Swedes sing about the bleakness of life – whether it's thwarted ambitions or condemned relationships. As usual, their majestic melodies leave you revelling in the misery, and this time around there are more references to prog, cerebral metallers Tool, and some of their previous gloomy songs. It's a beautiful burden of a record that'll make you face their sadness and yours.

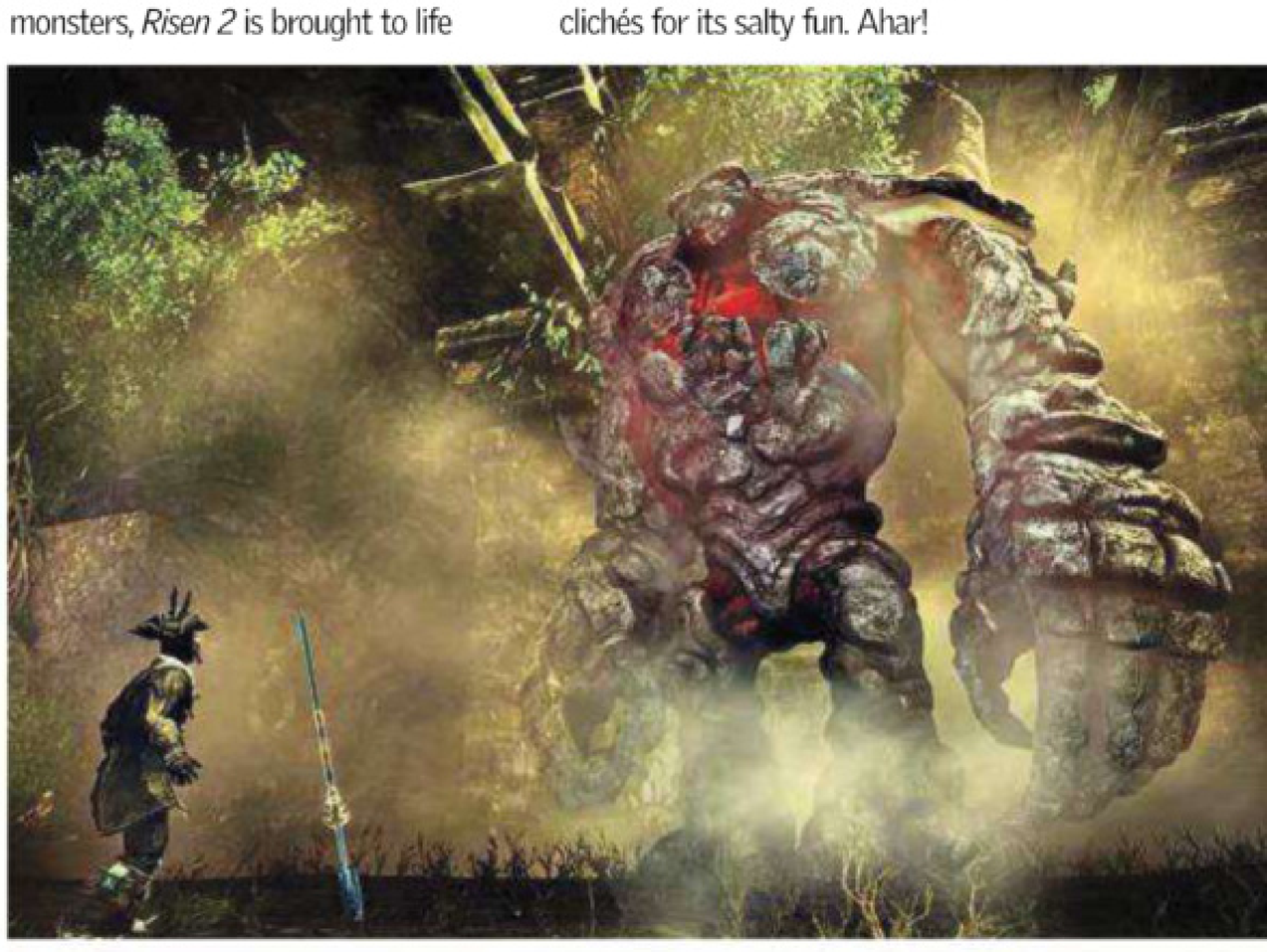
GAME

RISEN 2: DARK WATERS

Shiver me timbers! It's a pirate's life for us! etc.

OUT 3 AUGUST **XBOX 360, PS3**

Risen 2 has been available on PCs for a few months, but this console edition of the swashbuckling pirate adventure still feels fresh and exciting. An island-hopping quest where you search for treasure and battle sea monsters, *Risen 2* is brought to life by imaginative graphics, humorous dialogue, and a rich variety of quests that'll make the most stubborn landlubber feel like a high-seas explorer. And with some nifty voodoo spells that can be used to spice up the combat, *Risen 2* isn't wholly reliant on pirate clichés for its salty fun. Ahar!



CINEMA REVIEW

FILM AND DVD EDITOR BILLY CHAINSAW
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LAWLESS

Violent western scripted by Nick Cave

OUT 7 SEPTEMBER

***THE ROAD* DIRECTOR JOHN**

Hillcoat reunites with legendary writer/musician Nick Cave for this violent, adrenaline-charged romp set among Deep South bootleggers in Prohibition-era America – that's the 1920s/30s, for those of you who skipped illegal booze-running in history class.

Based on the real-life misadventures of the notorious Bondurant brothers, it's a violent coming-of-age tale that sees the youngest sibling (Shia LaBeouf) start proving his worth, just as the law decide they're going to destroy the family business. Well at least that's the central thread of a story that pulses with plot strands concerning checkered pasts, power, love, and redemption.

Hillcoat directs with his usual eye for detail and a sense of brooding menace, delivering an evocative and perfectly-paced watch – for every lull, there's a hail of bullets. But what sets this apart from Hillcoat's other movies is that, thanks to Cave's script, he gets the chance to inject a sense of levity into the emotionally taut, hard-hitting proceedings.

FOR EVERY LULL, THERE'S A HAIL OF BULLETS

The cherry on this cinematic cake is an inspired cast that effortlessly breathes believability into their characters. While Tom Hardy is bullishly magnificent as the seemingly-indestructible elder Bondurant, Gary Oldman is the epitome of terrifying cool as a Chicago crime boss, and Guy Pearce is skin-crawlingly creepy as a dandified federal agent, it's LaBeouf who proves the trump card in the pack. Best remembered as the world-saving loser from the *Transformers* franchise, he delivers a career-best performance that proves he's capable of rising above such popcorn-fodder.

Lawless is as expertly executed and as totally absorbing as modern cinema gets. **Billy Chainsaw**

storiagi

MORE FILMS THIS WAY!

IN THE DARK HALF

British ghost story that's as clever as it is scary

OUT 24 AUGUST

A PSYCHOLOGICAL GHOST STORY that isn't afraid to tackle big themes such as depression and delusion, *In The Dark Half* is a touching, cerebral tale of the supernatural in British suburbia. The story hinges around 15-year-old Marie, who has a secret shrine in an abandoned bunker where she buries the bodies of dead forest creatures and hangs spirit catchers. But when she's baby-sitting her 6-year-old neighbour, and the young boy suddenly dies in her care, Marie is convinced that she can hear the dead child talking to her from inside her hidden sanctuary. Fantastic performances, a brooding atmosphere and tight direction make *In The Dark Half* a film that's easy to fall for, and which is brought to life by characters you can truly empathise with as they try to find peace in the face of overwhelming grief.

TRUTH OR DARE

A game of 'spin the bottle' leads to death!

OUT 6 AUGUST

WHILE *IN THE DARK HALF* (see our preview on the left) is a British fright flick with brains to burn, *Truth Or Dare* is a delightfully dumb UK slasher that feels like a throwback to 1980s genre classics such as *Slaughter High*, but with a splash of torture porn thrown in for good measure.

The tale of a nutty military man who takes revenge on a group of kids who played a prank on his younger brother during a game of 'spin the bottle', an act of cruelty that caused the boy to take his own life, *Truth Or Dare* sees the bullies getting picked off one by one.

And while some of the methods of murder will be familiar to fans of films such as *Saw* – including being forced to choose between two glasses, one of which contains water, and the other battery acid – British director Robert Heath still manages to create some suspenseful moments that are worth the price of admission. And the female leads are HAWT!

SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN

Part mystery, part music documentary

OUT NOW

LIKE *BIZARRE*, YOU'VE PROBABLY never heard of folk singer Sixto Diaz Rodriguez. But in 1970s South Africa his music touched a generation, and was a source of inspiration during the dark times of apartheid. As Rodriguez failed to achieve success in his native US, he gave up music and slipped into obscurity – and as no American journalists had felt compelled to write about the man or his work, a romantic mystique has since grown around his name. *Searching For Sugar Man* is a documentary that tries to discover the truth about Rodriguez and his music, where the filmmakers unravel the mystery of a singer whose work touched millions, but left few clues about who the artist was.

THE IMPOSTER

Sometimes the truth is stranger than fiction

OUT 24 AUGUST

ONE OF THE MOST SHOCKING documentaries we've seen in years, *The Imposter* tells the story of a family whose 13-year-old son mysteriously disappeared from their home in San Antonio, Texas. Three years later the family received a call from a man in Spain, who claimed their son was alive and well. When the boy returned home he looked and acted differently, but his family tried to convince themselves that the intervening years had simply seen their son mature. However, it eventually it came out that the boy was an impostor, who'd posed as the family's missing son to come to the US and start a new life.

TOKYO FISH ATTACK

You'll be left floundering at this scaly movie!

FILM AND DVD EDITOR **BILLY CHAINSAW**
BILLYCHAINSAW@BLACKTHORNCOMMUNICATIONS.COM

THERE'S A SEXUAL ELEMENT TO THE FILM, AND A JOYOUS EMPHASIS ON THE GROTESQUE

OUT 20 AUGUST

IF IT'S FULL-ON MENTAL entertainment you want, then wrap your eyeballs around this ludicrous example of extreme Japanese animation.

Cutting to the chase: the shores of Japan are awash with the stench of death, as legions of mutant fish with mechanoid legs emerge from the sea and start laying waste to anyone and everything in their path. Amid the chaos and carnage, a young woman attempting to reunite with her boyfriend hooks up with a journalist who's determined to document the bizarre phenomenon, and discover its cause.

The film is adapted from Junji Ito's horror manga of the same name, and although it stays loyal to the themes of the source material, it kicks character development into touch and plays up the action scenes and outlandish nature of the tale. Cue a relentless succession of crazy set-pieces, featuring such creatures as car-chomping giant sharks and human-strangling squids. As is the nature of radical Japanese cinema, there's also a sexual element to proceedings (although thankfully – due to its somewhat dodgy nature – not much of it), and a joyous emphasis on the grotesque. For instance: once spiked by any rampaging sea creature, humans swell to gross proportions and fart like they've devoured gallons of vindaloo, before transforming into zombie killing-machines.

This is only the second feature film from writer/director Takayuki Hirao, and it shows he's got a boundless appetite for the bizarre, along with the smarts for transferring it onto the screen. He makes insane hideousness play like a riot of head-fucking fun.

MORE DVDS THIS WAY!

WRONG TURN 4

BLOODY BEGINNINGS

Prequel delivers buckets of gore

OUT 27 AUGUST

WHILE MANY HORROR SERIES run out of steam by the time they reach their fourth instalment, *Wrong Turn* still has what it takes when it comes to gratuitous bloodletting. Live skinnings, barbed wire hangings, guts ripped open by the treads of a snowmobile and an ice pick in the brain are just a few of the gruesome deaths gorehounds can look forward to in this ballsy prequel, which tells the story of how One Eye, Three Finger and Saw Tooth became the redneck cannibals we know and love today. And with messy special effects that were created without the use of CGI – and plenty of nudity and lesbian scenes to punctuate the bloodshed – *Wrong Turn 4* is a fun, if predictable, fright flick.

HELL

A dark look on the bright side...

OUT NOW

IN THIS DESOLATE GERMAN vision of an apocalyptic future, the earth has been bombarded by solar flares from the sun, transforming the planet into a scorched wasteland where a handful of survivors face a constant battle to find food and water. In a similar vein to *The Book Of Eli* or *The Road*, *Hell*'s dog-ends of humanity are divided into plucky survivors and bloodthirsty cannibals, creating a tense, relentlessly bleak atmosphere where director Tim Fehlbaum explores what would happen if the laws of society broke down. But aside from *Hell*'s clever premise and stellar performances, what's most impressive about this sci-fi thriller is the barren world it creates, with magnificent lighting helping to convey the harshness of the sun's rays, and charred landscapes that capture the despair and hopelessness of the three heroes as they make their way to higher ground, in the hope of finding some elusive rainfall.

RETURN TO MURDER

Kick boxing and gangsters

OUT NOW

WHEN A PROFESSIONAL THAI kick boxer agrees to take part in a 'duel to the death' to pay off his debts – but is rescued by his friends when it looks like he might lose the fight – he flees to his childhood home in nearby Malaysia. Predictably, it isn't long before his gangster enemies send an assassin to track him down. But when the intended target and his killer discover they're stepbrothers, and that a third sibling is also in town to nail a dodgy land-development deal, it makes for one of the messiest family reunions in cinema history. A complex story told with directness and skill, *Return To Murder* is a difficult film that examines family dynamics in a culture wildly different to our own... but with plenty of violence to keep you sick puppies interested!

THE VICTIM

Thai horror flick has a twist up its sleeve

OUT 6 AUGUST

A BIT LIKE BBC'S *CRIMEWATCH* – only with more ghosts and set in Thailand – *The Victim* follows the fortunes of an aspiring actress who's carved a niche for herself playing murder victims in TV crime reconstructions, but who comes to feel a supernatural connection with the dead women she's playing. Polished special effects and some creepy camerawork help make *The Victim* a distressing creep-out that can hold its own with the best Asian horror flicks. But it's the twist that comes halfway through the movie that'll live with you longest, and makes this Thai shocker feel a bit like Wes Craven's *New Nightmare*.

DOUBLE HORROR FEATURE!

DR BLACKTHORN

THIS MONTH: **BLOOD SUCKING FREAKS**

Serving up delicious movie delights to make you sick!

As any self-respecting horror fan will tell you, quality isn't a big issue when it comes to classic fright flicks. In fact, some of the most shocking and entertaining examples of terror cinema would be considered unmitigated trash by most right-minded people. But in my mission to introduce you to films that caused outrage, have been forgotten, or are simply considered too rubbish to re-release on DVD, I'd like to take you back to 1976 and the cult classic *Blood Sucking Freaks*.

"Originally titled *Sardu: Master Of The Screaming Virgins* or *The Incredible Torture Show*, but renamed when it was picked up for distribution by trash supremos Troma Entertainment, *Blood Sucking Freaks* tells the twisted tale of an S&M/Grand Guignol theatre show run by the sinister Master Sardu and his midget sidekick, Ralphus. But while theatre fans flock to Sardu's shows to see his gruesome performances, where naked women are tortured, dismembered and killed on stage, what nobody realises is that the gory action is real, and that Sardu is luring young woman to the theatre to be slaughtered in front of a paying audience.

"Terrible acting, awful scripting and dodgy special effects aside, what's most memorable about this sick flick are its perverse acts of torture that'll live in your nightmares long after the film has ended. In its short 91-minute running time, a girl has a hole drilled in her skull and her brains sucked out through a straw, another is forced to hold a rope in her teeth that's attached to a guillotine blade as her naked arse is whipped (she eventually screams, of course, and her head is chopped off), and another unlucky slave has her teeth extracted with pliers, so that she can give her torturer an gummy blowjob. Thumb screws, skulls crushed in a vice, amputation with bone saws, electric shocks, feet hacked off with a chainsaw, stretching on a St Andrew's Cross, whipping and quartering are also shown in unflinching detail as the movie crashes towards its shocking conclusion – and that's without even mentioning the feral women that Sardu keeps locked in his basement, who gladly feast on the flesh of his enemies.

"A SLAVE HAS HER TEETH EXTRACTED WITH PLIERS!"

"On paper, *Blood Sucking Freaks* sounds like the sickest movie ever made, and even writing that description of the torture scenes made me worry that I was endorsing a film that should be consigned to the dumpster of popular culture. But with camp performances that even the most humourless critic couldn't take seriously, a story that sends up genre classics such as Herschell Gordon Lewis' *The Wizard Of Gore*, and an overblown relish for inflicting pain that looks silly beside genuine shockers such as *Saw* and *Hostel*, *Blood Sucking Freaks* is a forgotten classic that paved the way for today's torture porn, even if its tongue was planted firmly in its cheek.

WHO'S THIS?

Dr Blackthorn is leader of the *Bizarre* team, and will be using this wretched column to share his thoughts on the random films cluttering up his hard drive.

BILLY CHAINSAW

THIS MONTH: **THE AGGRESSION SCALE**

All the latest news from *Bizarre*'s free film club, CUT!

Having puzzled the CUT! crowd with the creepy and ambiguous *Absentia* in July, we followed it with a flick with little hidden depth, but lashings of the nasty stuff. We like to mix it up!

The Aggression Scale opens with a deafening shotgun blast, which sees someone splattered and sent flying through the air. Then the marksman responsible snaps his handiwork with a Polaroid camera. It's a hideous yet perfect scene-setter for a cat'n'mouse thriller that plays like an in-your-face, mega-violent *Home Alone*.

"IT PLAYS LIKE A MEGA-VIOLENT *HOME ALONE*'

The nutjob responsible for the hideous incident is one of four hit men hired by a crime boss (*Twin Peaks*' Ray Wise) to retrieve the $500,000 he'd planned to jump bail with. The killing crew leave a trail of corpses, but get more than they bargained for when they track down a family of relocated suspects, including a psychotic teen who makes Rambo look like a Tellytubby.

Convincing performances (especially young Ryan Hartwig's silent-but-deadly protagonist), a breakneck pace, and brilliantly-executed, twisted set-pieces guarantee you'll be on the edge of your seat throughout this wickedly violent romp.

The Aggression Scale is out on DVD/Blu-ray on 20 August

WHO'S THIS?

Billy Chainsaw is *Bizarre*'s Film And DVD Editor, and he also runs our regular FREE film club in London, CUT! (cast your eyes right to see what sick treats Billy has in store at the next screening).

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THIS MONTH'S FEATURE PRESENTATION IS SO SECRET AND SO SPECIAL THAT WE CAN'T EVEN TELL YOU WHAT IT IS!

HOSTED BY
BILLY CHAINSAW
***BIZARRE* FILM EDITOR**

"COME ON DOWN AND MEET OTHER HORROR FIENDS AND GOREHOUNDS, IF YOU DARE!"

SEE *BIZARRE*'S FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS

BOOKS EDITOR ELEANOR GOODMAN
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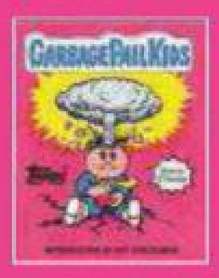
GARBAGE PAIL KIDS

The cards you loved as a kid... but your mum hated!

INTRODUCTION BY ART SPIEGELMAN
OUT NOW



BACK IN THE 1980s, Cabbage Patch Kids were a kiddy craze that put Furbys, Beanie Babies and My Little Pony to shame.

Sickeningly cute dolls that were 'adopted' by their owners and came with fake birth certificates, Cabbage Patch Kids were one of the longest-running toy franchises in the United States, and millions of the ugly fuckers were sold across the globe.

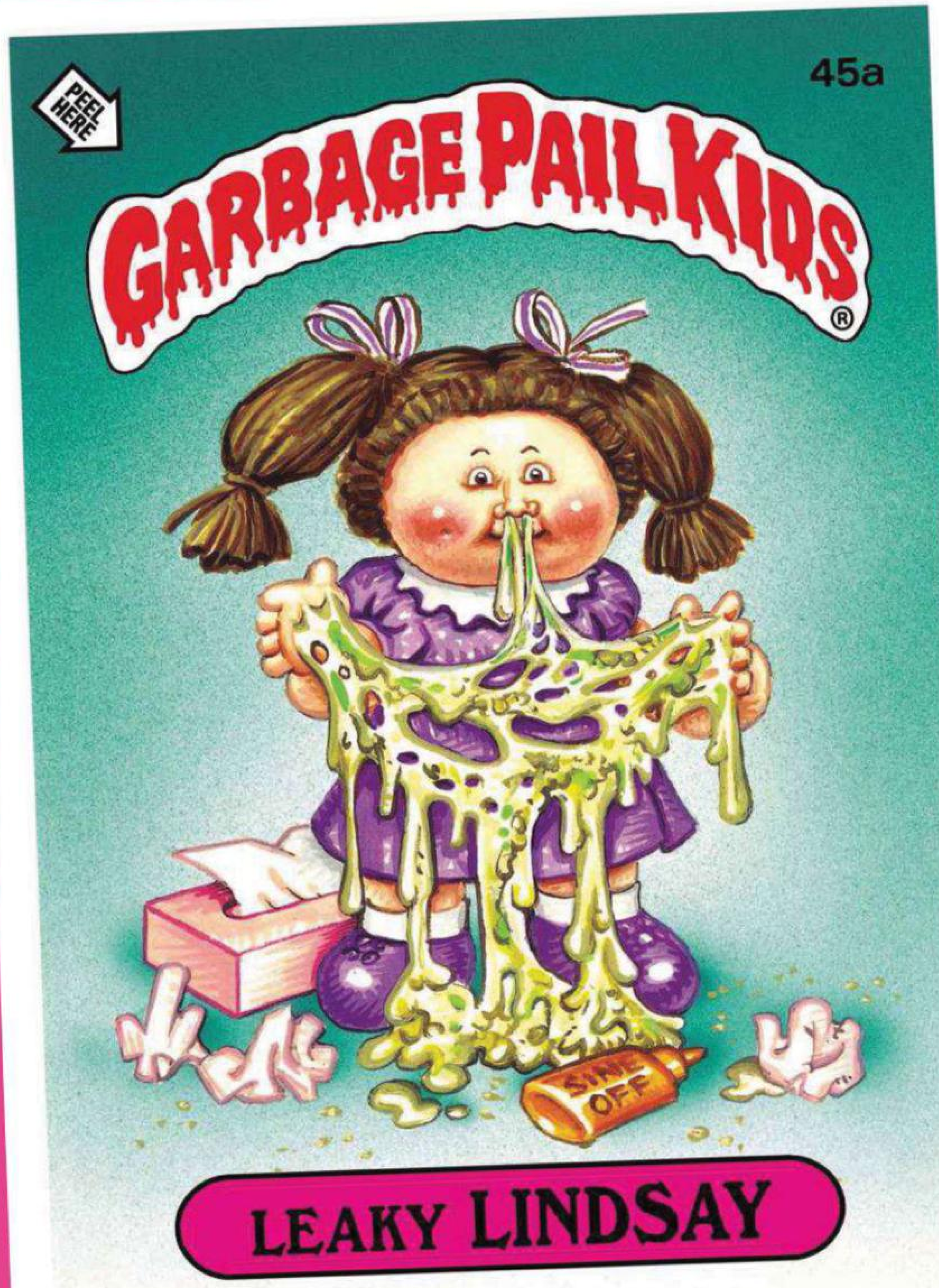
But if you were one of the cool kids back in the days of Wham!, Walkmans and the Rubik's Cube, you didn't drool over these arse-faced moppets. Instead, you spent your

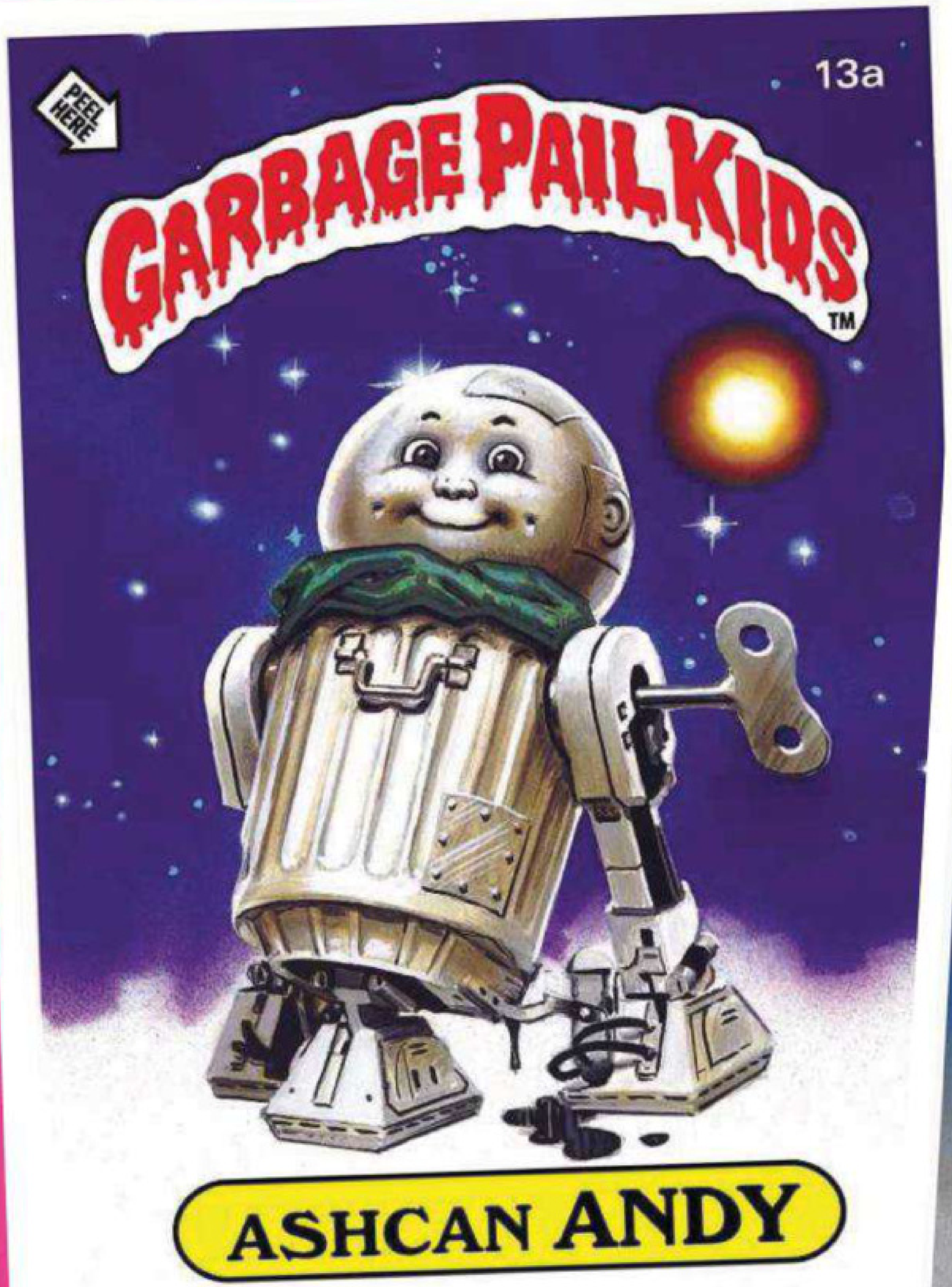
COOL KIDS DIDN'T DROOL OVER ARSE-FACED MOPPETS

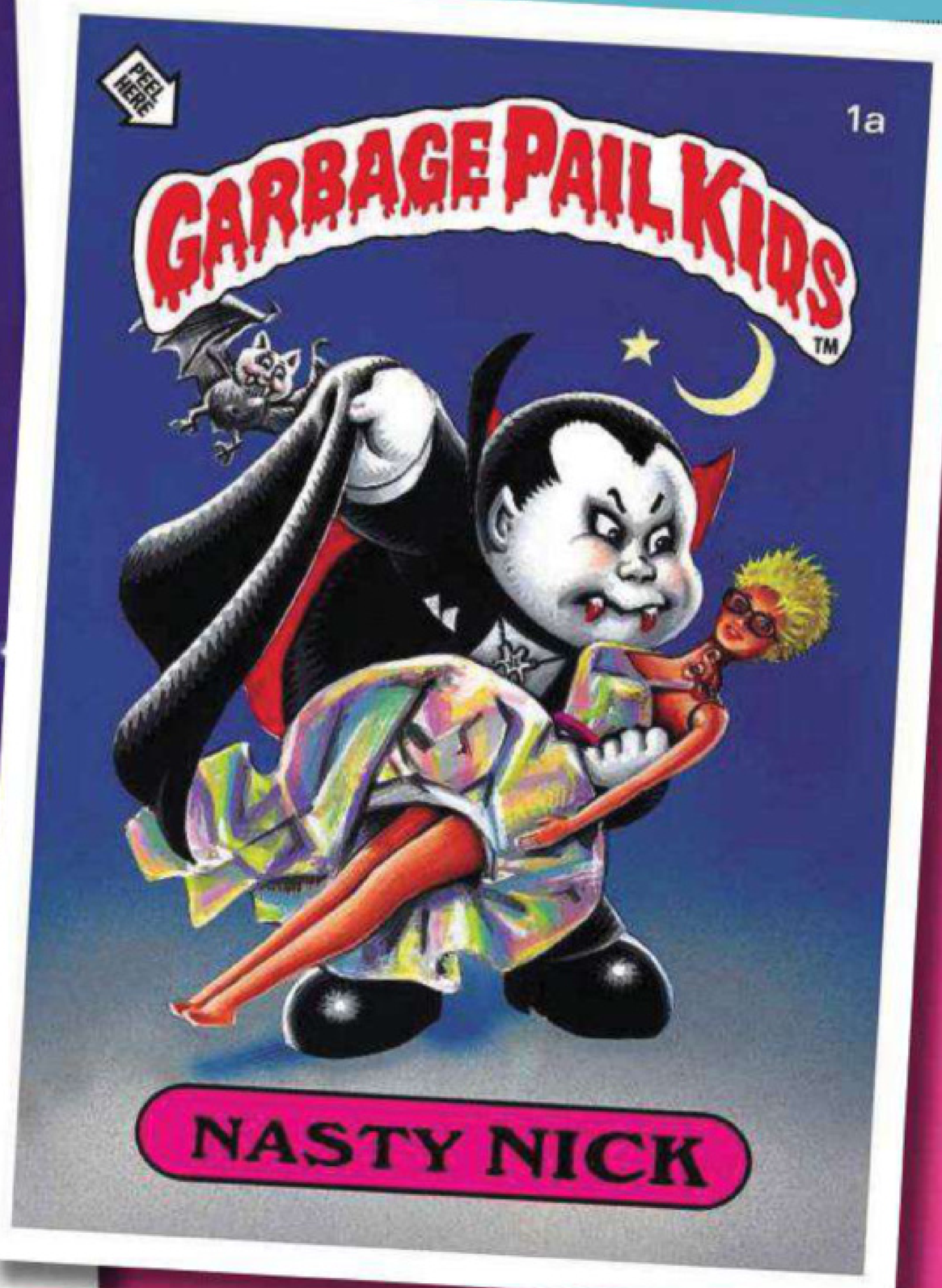
school lunch-break swopping Garbage Pail Kids stickers with your pals, and grossing out over the artists' crude take on the Cabbage Patch phenomenon.

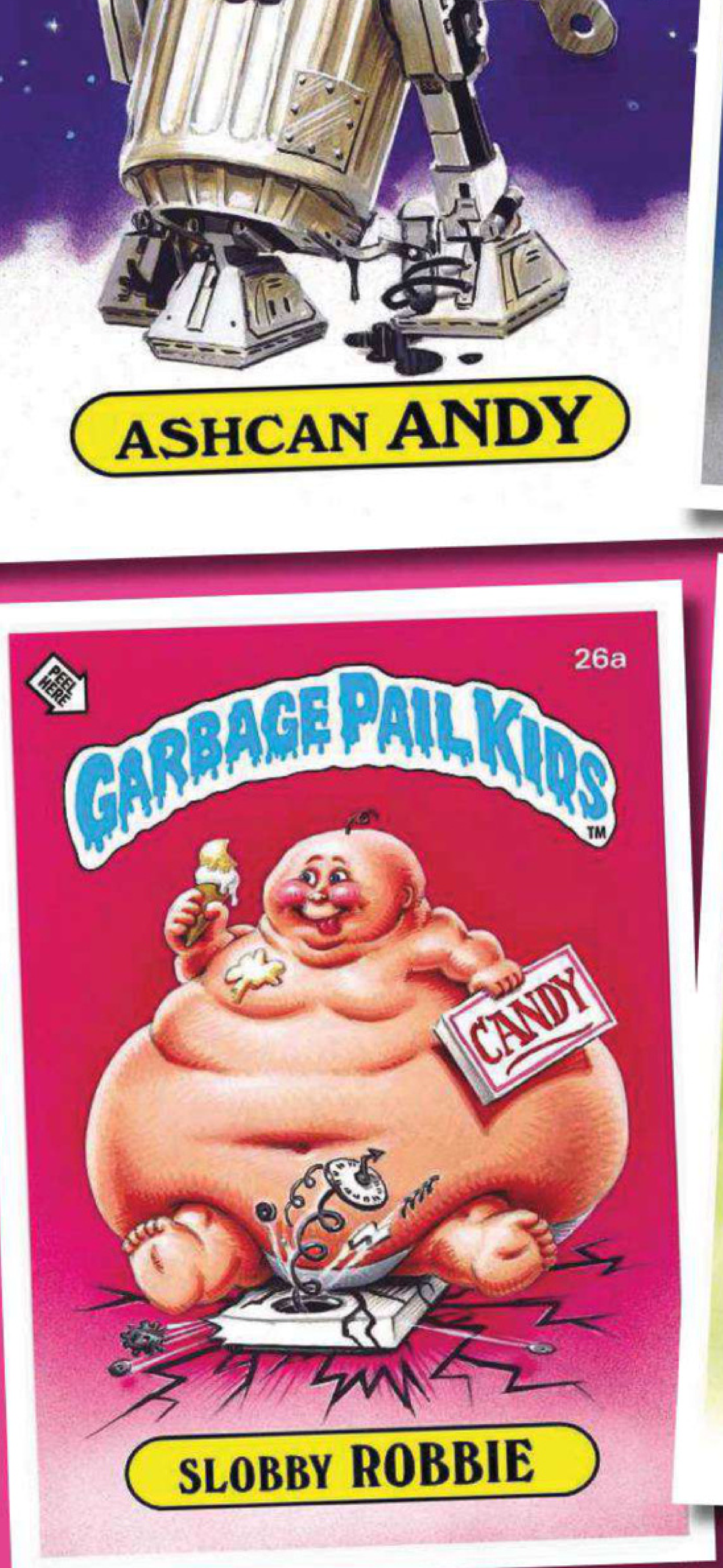
For the first time, the *Garbage Pail Kids* book reproduces all 206 rare stickers, and includes fascinating background information on how the series came about in the first place.

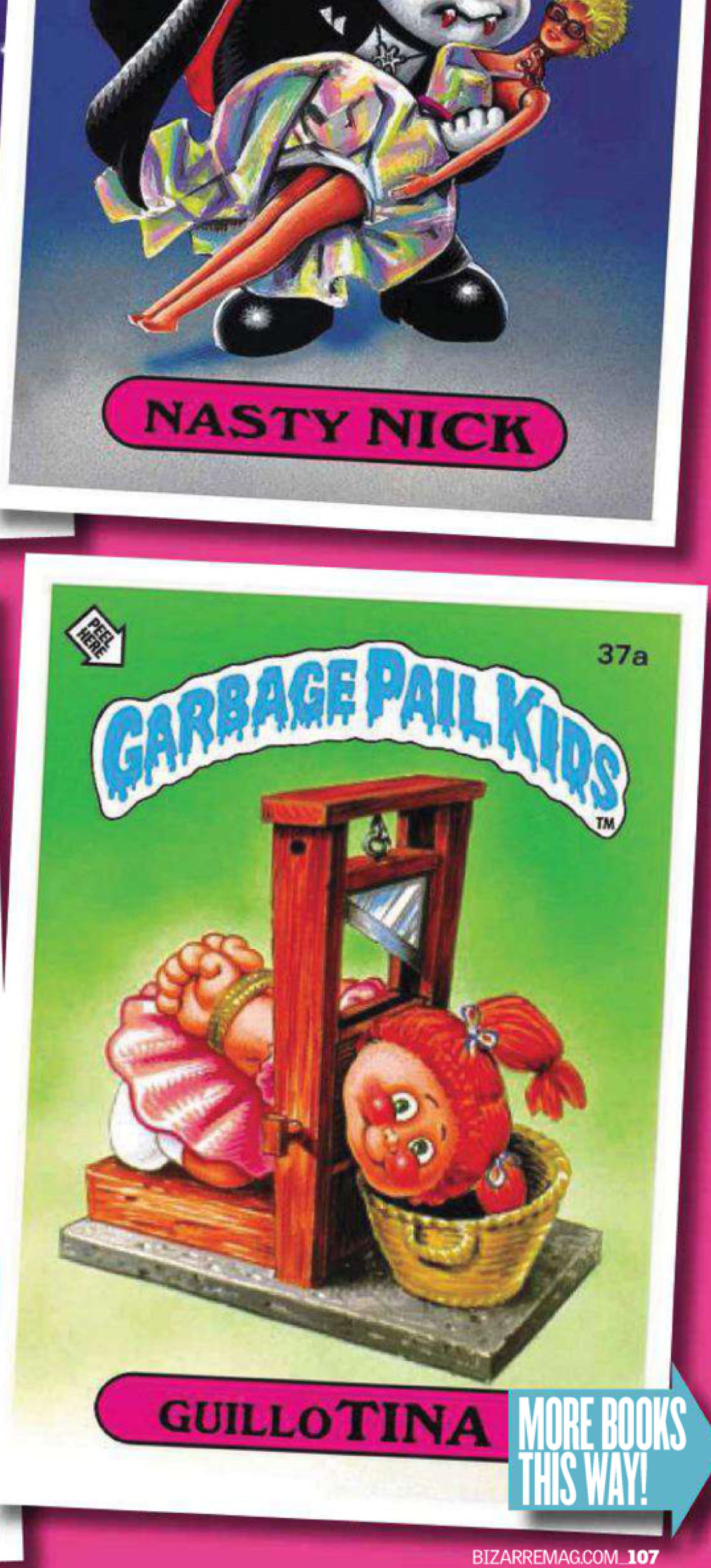
But the main joy of this hilarious book is flicking through the pages, and marvelling at how the sticker manufacturers, Topps, managed to get away with such grim, icky and downright disturbing images. From Fryin' Brian getting shocked in an electric chair to Dead Ted rising (and rotting) from his grave, and from Boozin' Bruce swigging whiskey and Itchy Richie getting attacked by ants, it's a marvel that these subversive stickers weren't banned as they pushed the boundaries of taste, and showed tiny kids in perilous situations. But because Garbage Pail Kids stickers were doubtless a key factor in making us the sick fucks we are today, we can't recommend this fine collection enough!











MORE BOOKS THIS WAY!

GRAFFITI TATTOO 2

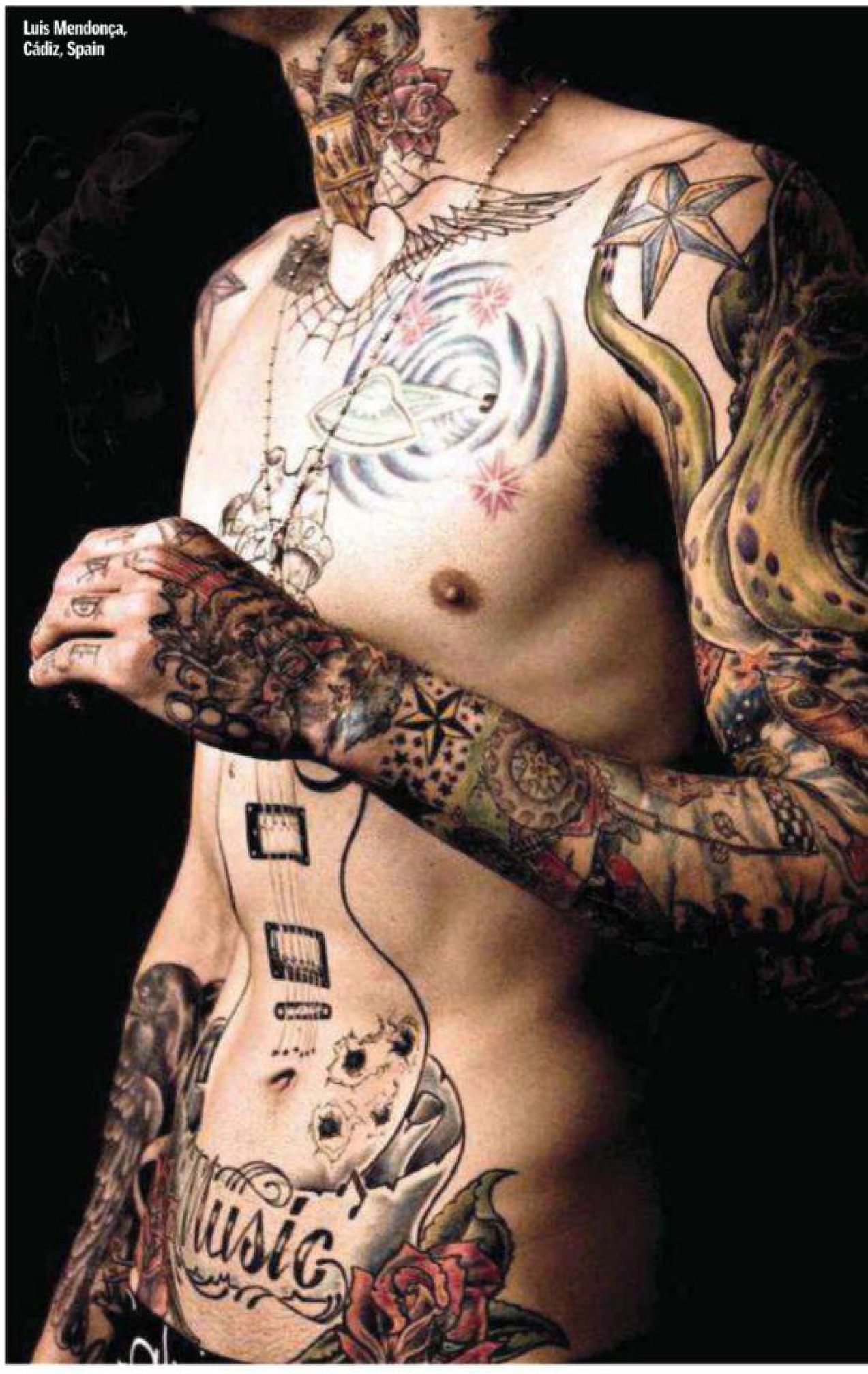
Amazing designs by former street artists

ALAN KET AND DON KARL, AKA STONE
OUT NOW

THIS IS THE second book of work by inkers who started as graffiti artists – and it's bigger, harder, and glossier. The artists' spray paint creations and tattoos are shown in full, vibrant glory, along with their stories of how they got into needle-wielding. Some artists, such as Billy 'Flip' McCoy, directly transfer their writing from street to skin, while others such as Adrian 1, AKA Exez, make a deliberate effort to switch up their styles. This art-book-cum-reference-guide also features tattoo stars Dan Gold (*London Ink*), and Deno of Circus Ink (see *Bizarre 176*). And while the work showcased varies in theme and standard, it reflects the diverse lives and artistic journeys of its colourful makers.

Fishero, Ostrava, Czech Republic

Marode, Würzburg, Germany

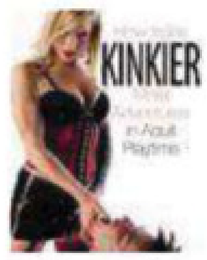


HOW TO BE KINKIER

MORE ADVENTURES IN ADULT PLAYTIME

Stimulating sequel to BDSM basics book

MORPHEOUS
OUT NOW



EVER THOUGHT about sticking some ginger up a slave's bum, or turning balloons into anal beads? This friendly guide explores advanced play techniques, as well as the emotions they're likely to unlock in your and your partner(s). The tips and tricks are illustrated with photos, and there's also a chapter about playing safe – but be sure to use common sense, too!

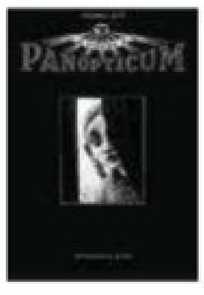
A damsel in distress!

Bad leather puppy boy!

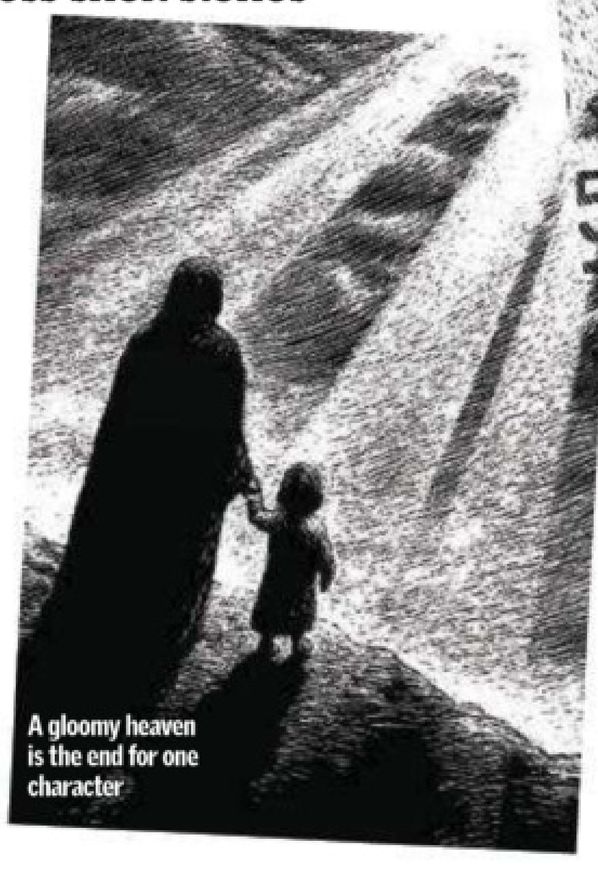
CINEMA PANOPTICUM

Wordless, heartless, faultless short stories

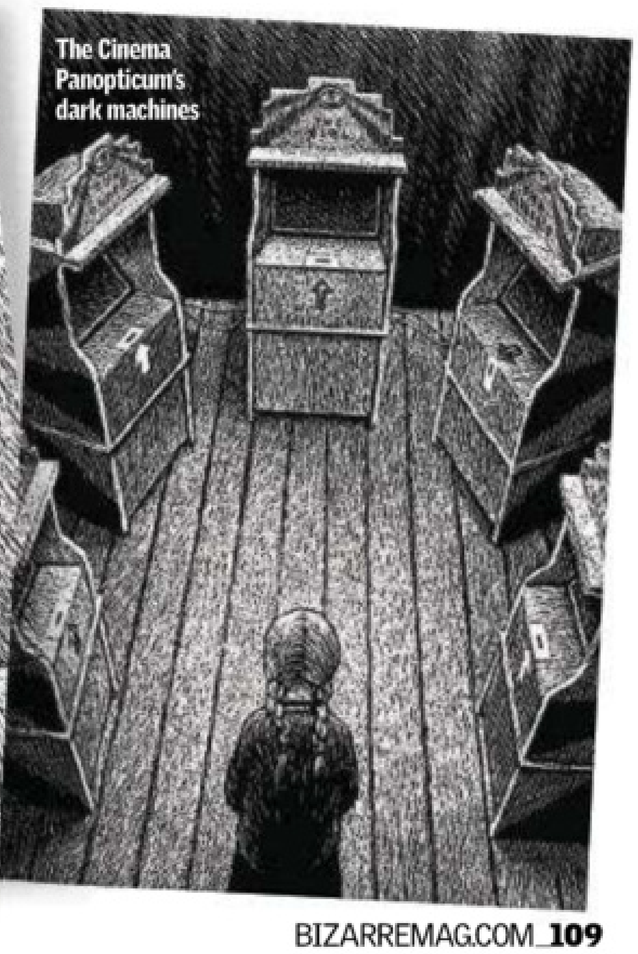
THOMAS OTT
OUT NOW



A GIRL VISITS a fairground, but she can't afford any of the attractions... until she finds the Cinema Panopticum. One by one, she feeds a coin into each machine inside, and sees a succession of twisted vignettes involving a murderous hotel-keeper, an ill-fated wrestler, a mad scientist, aliens, and finally herself. They're beautifully rendered nightmarish tales, with freakish conclusions.



A gloomy heaven is the end for one character



The Cinema Panopticum's dark machines

DARKSIDERS II

Feels like a Nintendo classic, but has a heart as black as pitch...

OUT 21 AUGUST **PS3, XBOX 360, PC**

TAKE NINTENDO'S CLASSIC RPG *The Legend Of Zelda*, add a generous splash of sickening ultra-violence, then mix it all up with a bloodthirsty hero based on Death, the most feared of the Four Horsemen Of The Apocalypse... *et voilà!* You have *Darksiders II*, an action adventure *Bizarre* can't wait to wrap its thumbs around this summer, and which promises to satisfy our insatiable lust for murder as the rest of the country goes nuts for boring sports, and obsesses over the inevitable crushing defeat of Britain's Olympic hopefuls.

Building on the success of the original *Darksiders*, this explosive follow-up aims to evolve the action with faster combat, a flexible hero that you can customise to suit your own playing style, and a demonic underworld that's more fun to explore than the post-apocalyptic Earth you lumbered through in the first game.

Like a *Zelda* quest, progression in *Darksiders II* is dependent on collecting new pieces of kit that give you access to previously inaccessible areas, and natty upgrades that make Death more powerful and able to kick ass in the inventive end-of-level boss battles. And as this clever structure is sharply compelling and more addictive than the contents of Charlie Sheen's medicine cabinet, we're confident *Darksiders II* is going to be a monster hit, and will delight gamers with its slick graphics, fluid combat, and fucking big hammers that you can use to cave zombies' heads in. Yum!

Reigning in hail

MORE GAMES THIS WAY!

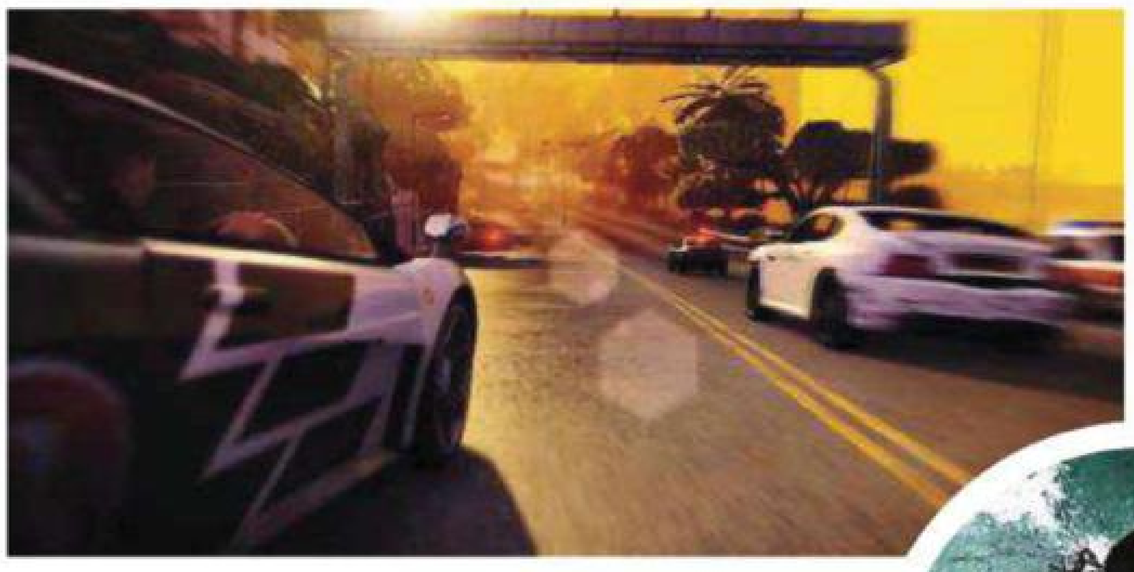
GAMES PREVIEWS

SLEEPING DOGS

True Crime gets a new name, but is just as violent

OUT 17 AUGUST **PS3, XBOX 360, PC**

THE LATEST EDITION IN A SERIES formerly known as *True Crime, Sleeping Dogs* is shaping up to be a brutal journey through the neon-bathed streets of Hong Kong. A maelstrom of Triad gangsters, tattooed crime bosses, frantic gunplay and barbaric hand-to-hand combat that'll see you slamming skulls into brick walls and shredding faces in spinning fan blades, *Sleeping Dogs* uses the classic open-world structure of a *GTA* game. But while the action looks familiar, the game's clever reputation system that determines how other characters react to you promises to make the experience feel more gritty, intriguing and realistic.

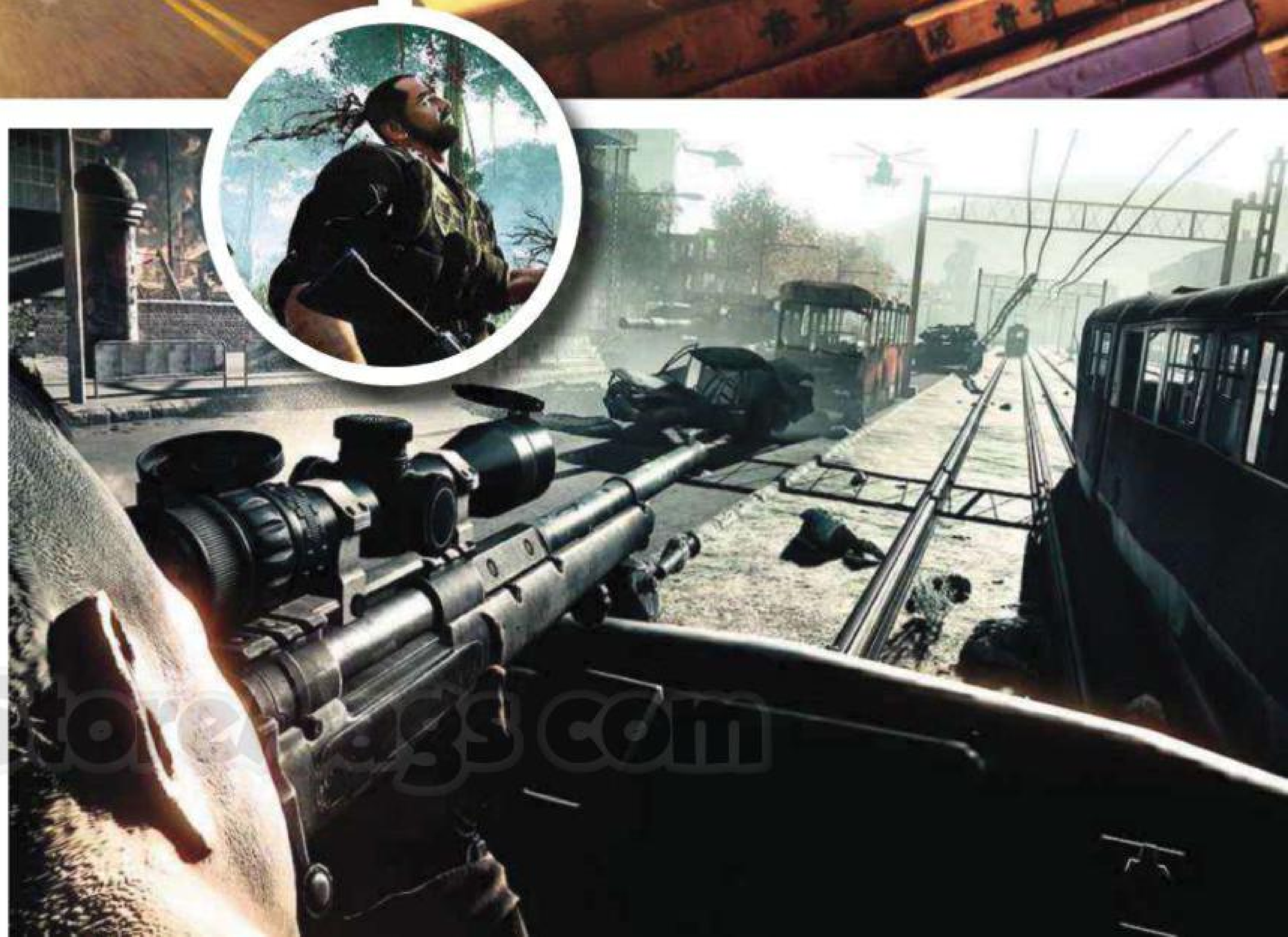


SNIPER: GHOST WARRIOR 2

Bullet in the head

OUT 21 AUGUST **PS3, XBOX 360, PC**

FEW THINGS IN VIDEOGAMING are as thrilling as the perfect headshot, so we're unfeasibly excited about this upcoming blaster where the whole point is hiding in the shadows and splattering brains. But as you need to pay strict attention to the wind speed and other external factors when lining up a kill, this slow, intense, cerebral shooter may not be to everyone's tastes.



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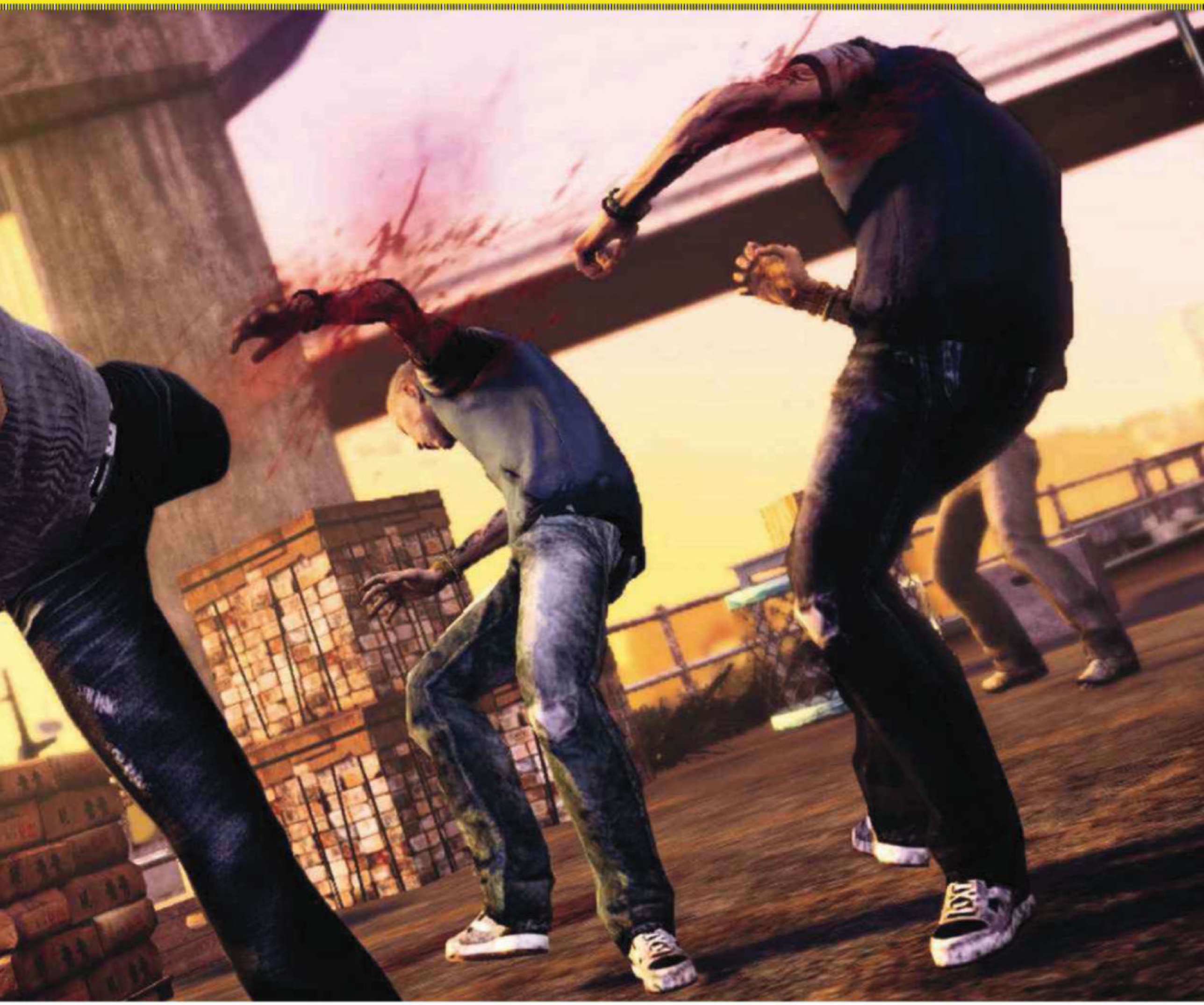


NEW SUPER MARIO BROS 2

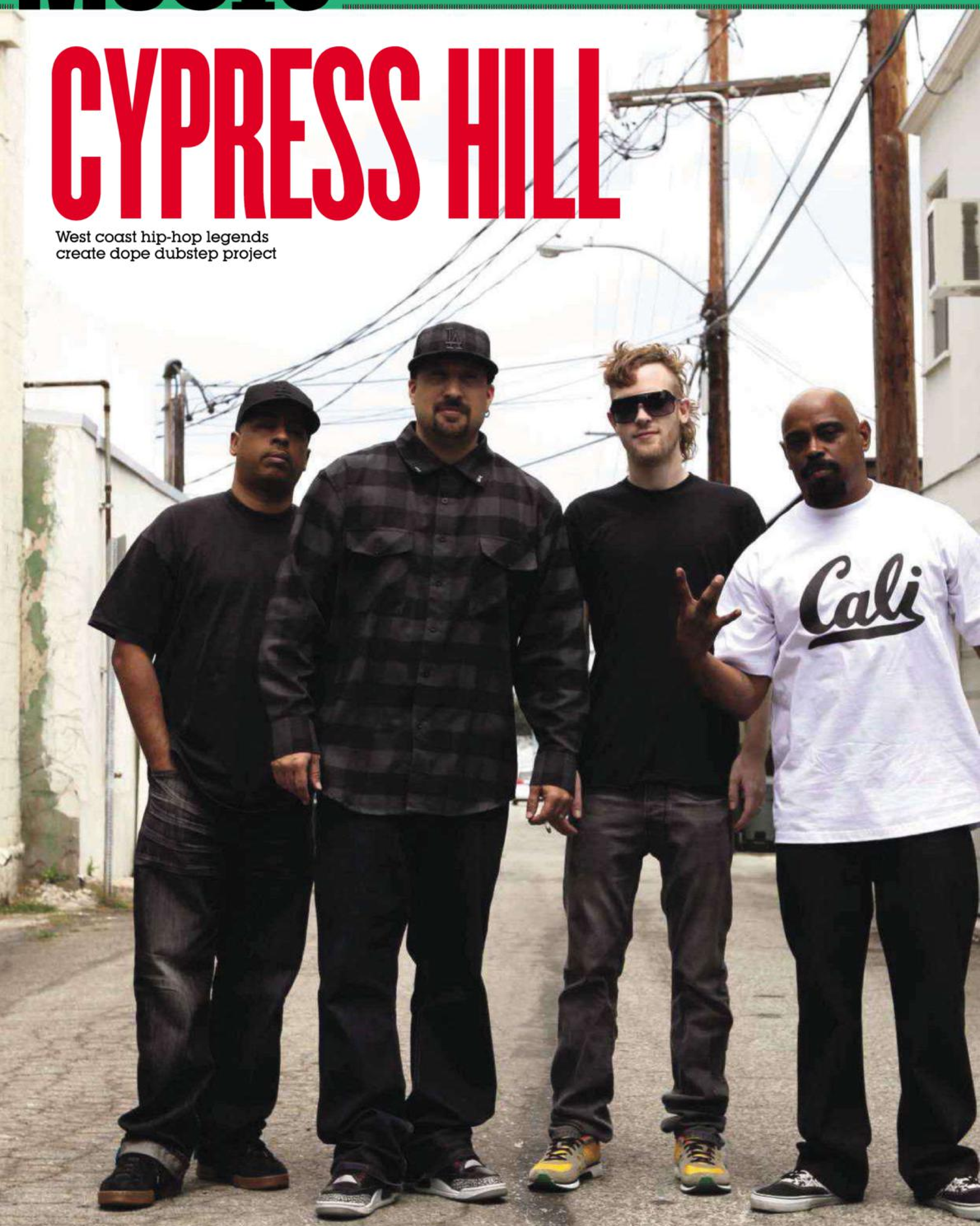
It's a-Mario! He's a-back!

OUT 17 AUGUST **NINTENDO 3DS**

DON'T BE FOOLED BY ITS CUTESY characters and retina-sizzling visuals – *New Super Mario Bros 2* is going to be a fiendishly difficult adventure. Although the game's new structure, where the main aim is to collect as many coins as possible, will welcome younger and less experienced players, unlocking all Mario's secrets will require nerves of steel and lightening reflexes. For older Nintendo nuts who moan that videogames are just too damned easy these days, this nostalgic slice of unforgiving, old-school platform hopping promises to be a challenging but deeply rewarding experience.

CYPRESS HILL

West coast hip-hop legends create dope dubstep project



CYPRESS X RUSKO EP 01

OUT NOW

Cypress Hill's laid-back lyrical flow and weed-loving themes are transformed for the dancefloor, in this dub-hop collaboration. The shuddering bass and high-pitched synths of opener 'Lez Go' explode with intent, while the reggae-wub 'Can't Keep Me Down' – featuring Damian Marley – is another spin on the conventional. Like Korn's dubstep experiment, this project updates a legendary band, making them sound fresh again.

Eleanor Goodman

Q&A B-REAL, RAPPER

Why did you decide to do a dubstep collaboration with English artist Rusko?

I was spinning a lot of hip-hop and soul on my streaming site, Breal.tv, and a lot of the fans were like, 'Hey, how come you don't spin dubstep? That's the new thing, you know?' And I said, 'I don't have that library, but if people send something, I'll spin it.' They sent me so many songs, and I heard Rusko. I felt like he could complement us really well, and we could complement his stuff really well. Fortunately, we had a friend in common who was able to bring us together. We chilled, hung out and caught some vibes, and it pretty much it went from there. We had a good time, and he's a cool dude, and we plan to do more in the future.

What kind of thing?

We haven't decided yet – I guess it depends on our schedules and whatnot. I'd like to do a full album, but an EP is good because it teases people and makes them want more. We've talked about touring, but we'll see what makes sense for the both of us.

What were the differences working on a dubstep album as opposed to a hip-hop album?

Well, the style of production was different, because whatever we wrote ended up coming back different. And the way Rusko handled our vocals was a breath of fresh air; usually hip-hop producers don't want to cut the vocals up, whereas Rusko chops things up, makes a chorus out of one line, and you know, that's the limit.

You've been touring recently. What's the strangest experience you've ever had at a show?

We were doing a show in France a couple of days ago, and everything was going on as smoothly as could be. And one of our stage hands looks at me while I'm in the middle of a song, and he points at the crowd, and I can hear him saying, 'Look over there'. I look over, and there's two butt-ass naked Frenchmen on top of people's shoulders walking around, and then the cameraman catches a glimpse of them and puts them on a big screen, and I started laughing. It almost threw me off the chorus because I've never seen that! Usually you see chicks lift up their tops – old school festival-type stuff. I was just worried about the people that were around them, in case those dudes fell off!

Where are you up to with your marijuana campaigning?

We're constantly trying to keep up awareness. Because it's election time, politicians are going to point the finger at our movement, and try to say that they're going to stop it – but this is all because they're campaigning for votes. After the election, it'll be swept under the rug. So we continue to press on and try to educate people and inform them. It's part of what we're about. Mainly we're about music, because we're a band rather than politicians, but we try to get the legalisation message out there.

What's your favourite piece of weed paraphernalia?

A bong called Excalibur, made by ROOR in Germany. It's about 6ft 4in in height. It's a monster bong. There's footage of it on YouTube... The same company make filters called Cypress Hill Phuncky Feel Tips.

Are you working on any side-projects at the moment?

I was working on a project with Xzibit called Serial Killaz, but I don't know when and if that will come out.

Do you have a favourite serial killer?

You always hear about Gacy, Ramirez, Berkowitz... they're infamous and whatnot. But the whole thing was to take on the character as far as killing rhymes – it's more metaphorical, and it was called Serial Rhyme Killaz at first. Our whole concept was to put out the *craziest* rhymes out there. We made some really good music, so God-willing it comes out at some point.

Can you tell us something weird about yourself?

I'm a gym fanatic. I get up at 6.30 in the morning, and I'm at the gym by 7.30 or 8 o'clock. I guess that's as weird as I get right now. If you'd asked me 10 years ago, it would've been something else. Back in the day, we used to go to the gun range five days a week, letting off rounds. I come from a crazy background in gangs, but when you're in a gang, you don't really train yourself to shoot – you're just there. After I got out and started doing music, I still had that mentality, but we taught ourselves properly. I don't think anybody goes to the gun range that much. Our whole crew are excellent shooters!

See more at Cypressxrusko.com and Breal.tv

"I HAVE A BONG CALLED EXCALIBUR, WHICH IS ABOUT 6FT 4IN IN HEIGHT!"

MORE NEW SHIT!

Other *Bizarre* must-hears

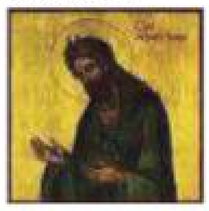
PERIPHERY
PERIPHERY II

OUT NOW

One of the forerunners of djent – progressive, technical metal with palm-muted guitars – Periphery started off on the internet, and their song titles were filled with jokes. Album number two retains their personality, but it's more grown-up; the screams in 'MAKE TOTAL DESTROY' are lung-shatteringly powerful, while 'Erised' is a melodic joy. It's an evolution of their genre.

OM
ADVAITIC SONGS

OUT NOW



'Om' is a sacred Hindu symbol, and advaitism is a branch of Hindu philosophy concerning the self being one with the universe. Now on their fifth album, the band originally formed by two members of stoner rockers Sleep is really hitting its groove, combining rumbling bass, melodic chanting and strings to produce arrangements that take you into a transcendent state.

GUANO PADANO
2

OUT 27 AUGUST

As with former Hot This Month band Ronin (*Bizarre 187*), this instrumental trio create soundtracks to nonexistent Westerns. Signed to Mike Patton's label, their experimental music blends jazz, country, blues and more to create a sound that canters and then gallops, and conjures vistas as well as action sequences. It's brilliantly expressive.

SUCIOPERRO
FUSED

OUT 3 SEPTEMBER

Biffy Clyro's friends return with a fourth album of spiky alt.rock, which is less upbeat than last offering *The Heart String & How To Pull It*. Loaded with weird stories that drown in the heaviest songs and float in the lightest, *Bizarre*'s favourite is the sweet-yet-disturbing 'Rabbits In Boxes'. There's something to love in every track – even if it's unclear what they're about.

VIZA

Seven-headed gypsy-rock beast

Q&A KNOUP TOMOPOULOS (SINGER) AND ANDREW KZIRIAN (OUD, VOCALS)

Who are Viza?
Andrew: Viza is what happens when you take seven crazy musicians with wildly varying styles and put them in a band, which somehow comes out harmonious. Aside from me, Viza is Knoup Tomopoulos (lead vocals), Orbel Babayan (guitar, vocals), Shant Bismejian (guitar), Alexan Khatcherian (bass), Chris Daniel (percussion, vocals) and Hiram Rosario (drums).

"OUR IDEAL CARNIVAL WOULD BE ABANDONED"

What are the ideas behind fifth album *Carnivalia*? You've described it as "a journey through a symbolic theme park derived from satirical and dramatic influences"... that's pretty highbrow!
Knoup: *Carnivalia* is a setting much like our own individualised turbulent world of emotions. Every day we discover new symbols and metaphors that compose our very existence, and every day we come across characters that bring us new information. I believe everyone lives the life of their own novel, in which they slowly transcend into an acceptance of old age or the closing of a carnival.

What would your ideal carnival be like, and who would perform?
Knoup: Viza's ideal carnival would be one that's abandoned. There's nothing more poetic than seeing something so joyous left sketched in time for one to absorb.

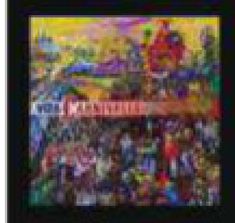
Are there any unusual musical instruments on the record?
Andrew: We put the oud (a pear-shaped stringed instrument without frets) in a nontraditional context with some processing from different pedals and effects. This album also has some mandolin and baglama (a long-necked lute). In terms of percussion, we have a lot of dumbek (hand drums), congas and chimes that add depth and different drumming styles to our music. So it's not just the instruments that are unique themselves – but it's *how* they're played and fused with others to define the band's sound.

We know Viza has a social conscience. What issues are you campaigning on at the moment?
Andrew: We've worked with orphanages, food shelters and charities all over to help underprivileged children and the homeless. We also work to raise awareness of human rights problems, such as recognition of the Armenian Genocide (five of our members are Armenian). It's important to help educate society about certain issues through art, as this can be a positive means of change and movement.

Are any of you involved with interesting side-projects?
Knoup: Me and Hiram are in Neurobox, a gothic metal project that dabbles deeper into the darker side of one's soul (Neurobox.bandcamp.com). Andrew has founded projects that involve the oud in an acoustic classical setting (Stringharmonies.com, Aravod.com) and also works with EDM and dubstep DJs. Orbel is in Pancho & Sancho, a musical comedy dynamic duo. He also performs regularly with several Middle Eastern pop artists. ED members Alex, Shant and Chris have toured the US and the Sunset club circuit. The band is all about insane riffs, fast tempos, and beautiful harmonies. Shant also writes music for several projects, and Chris is in the heavy rock group Red Snow, a mainstay of the LA music scene.

See more at Experienceviza.com

CARNIVALIA



OUT NOW
Like their biggest supporter Serj Tankian (System Of A Down), Viza combine weirdness and world music. On their fifth album, the LA septet use bizarre lyrics – involving drinking wine with crocodiles and telling someone to shove potpourri up their arse – to comment on the carnival of life, while their instruments collide in a cacophony of rousing gypsy-rock. Welcome to the freak show...

Eleanor Goodman

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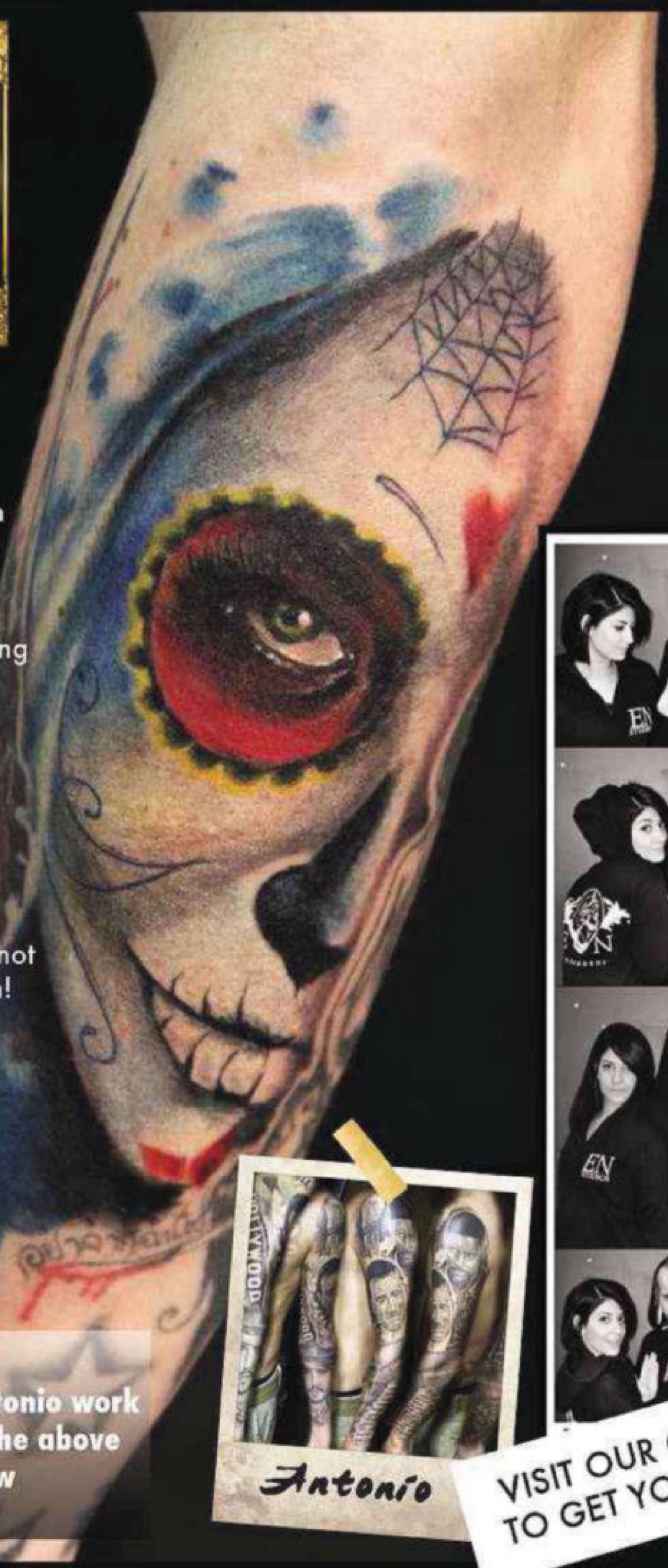
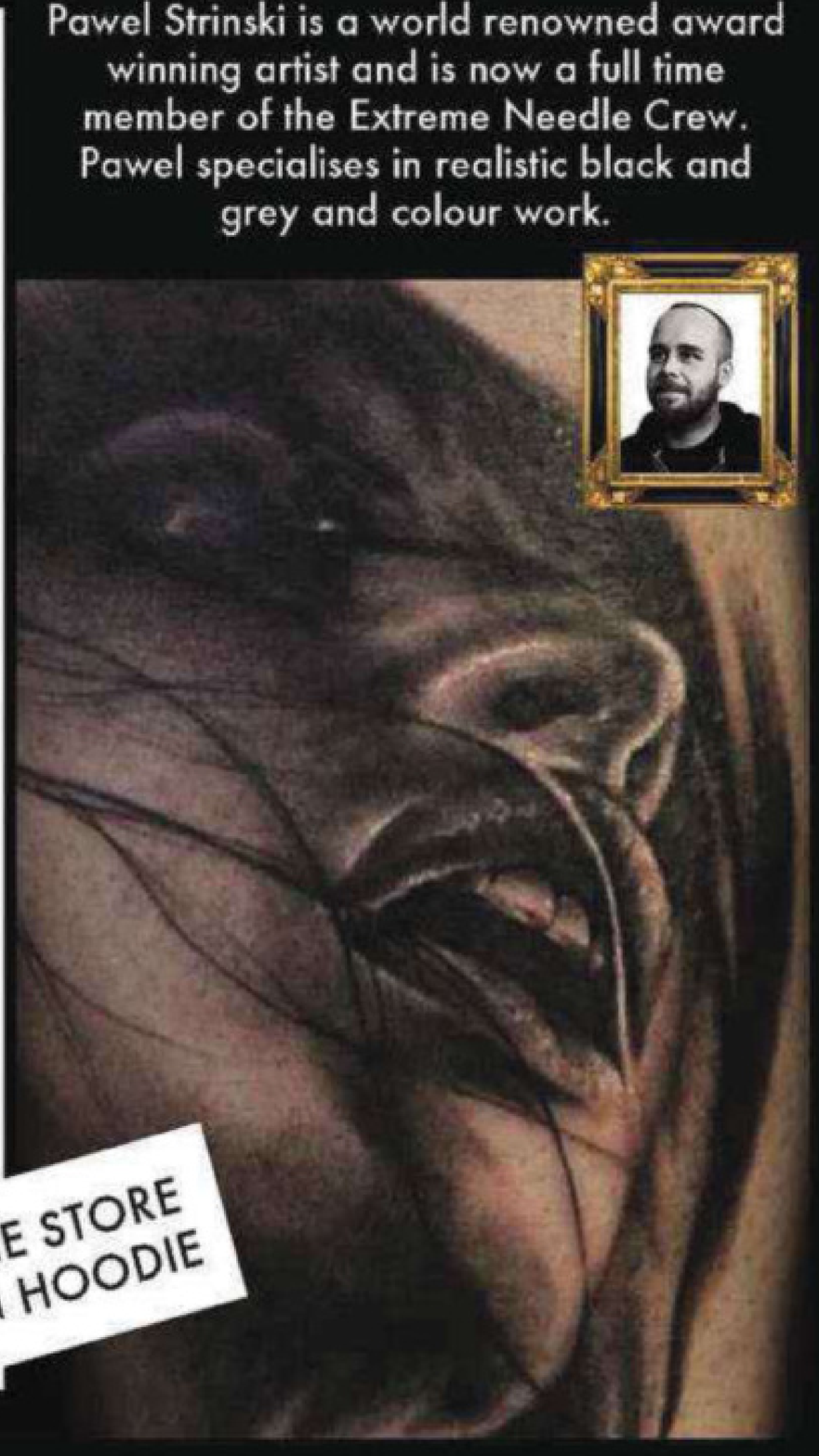
Antonio has been a tattoo artist for many years, he especially enjoys creating custom designs using his own unique style.

When he is not tattooing he spends alot of time drawing, painting and researching ideas for future designs.

If you would like to discuss any ideas regarding your future tattoo then please do not hesitate to get in touch!



Watch Antonio work creating the above tattoo now



Pawel Strinski is a world renowned award winning artist and is now a full time member of the Extreme Needle Crew. Pawel specialises in realistic black and grey and colour work.

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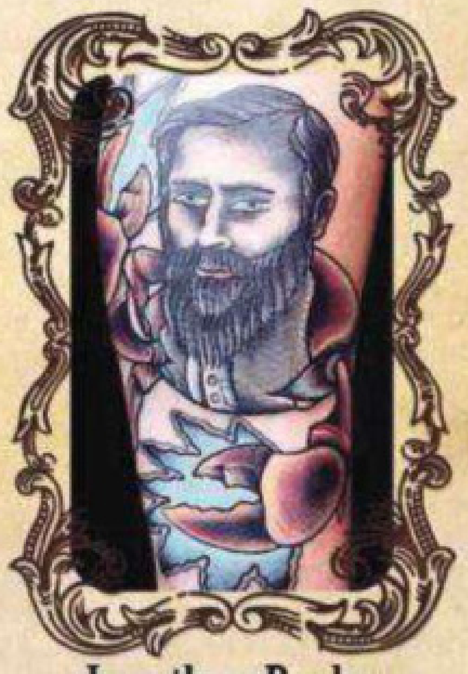

Jonathan Peeler

Dawnii Fantana

Matt Craven Evans

Matthew Youl

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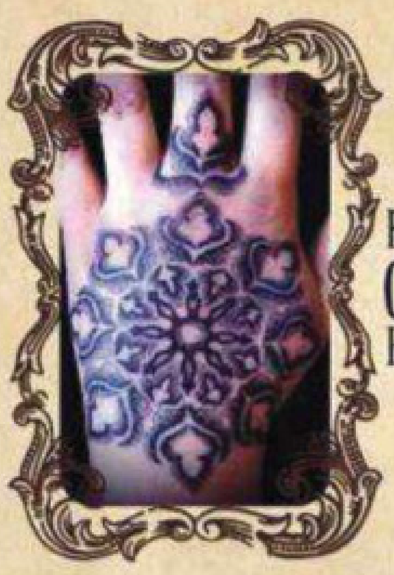

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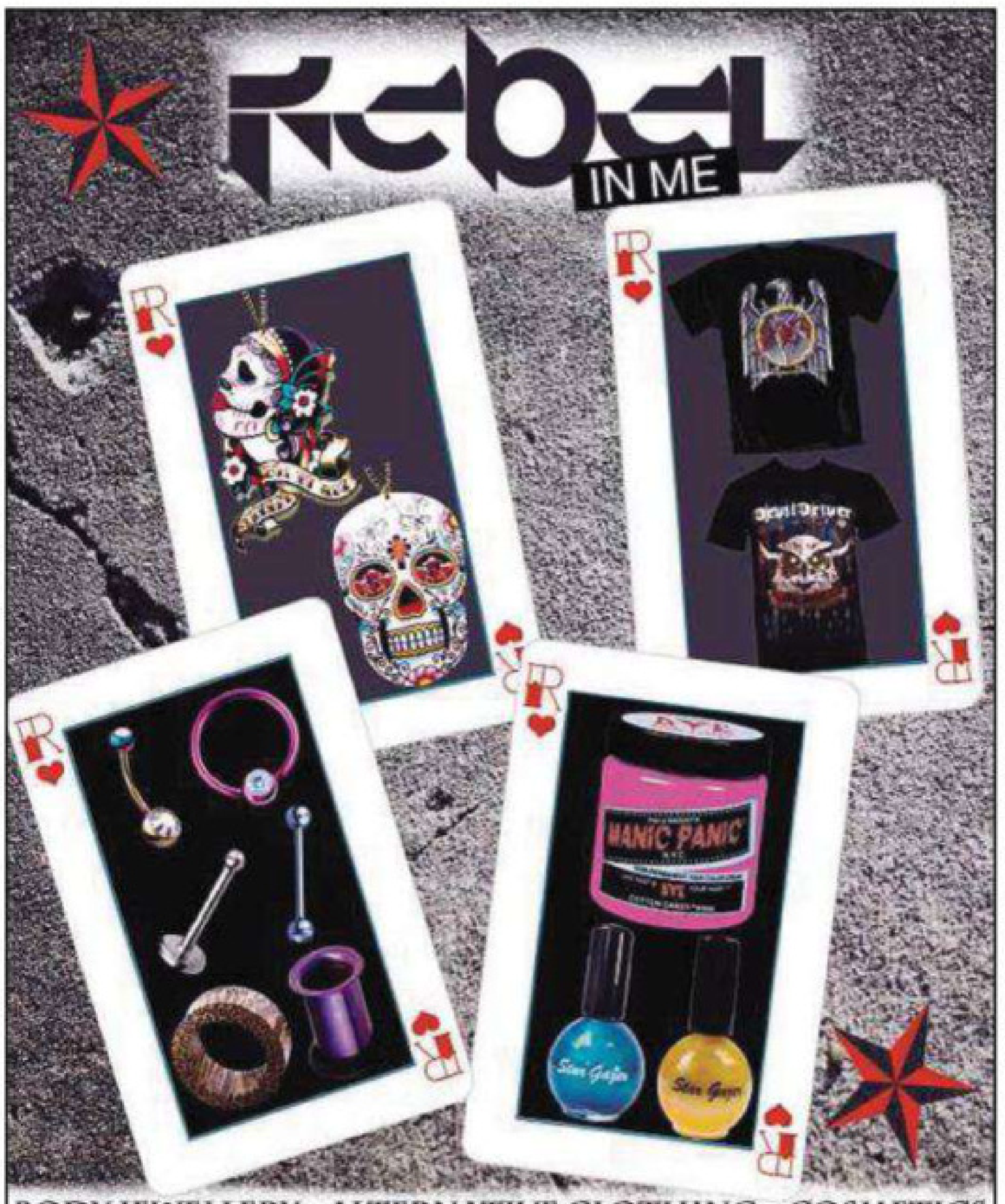

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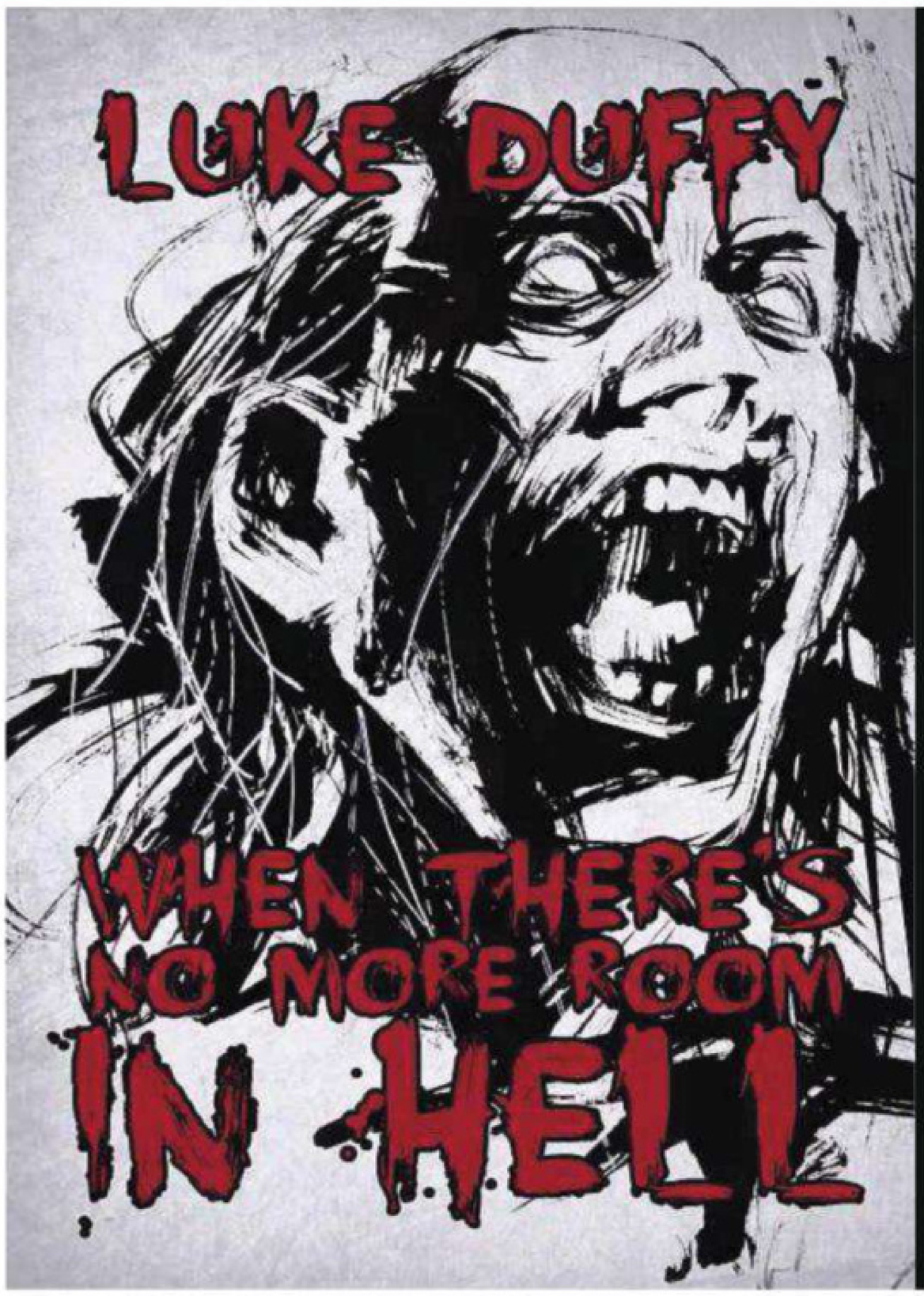

'When there' s no more room in Hell', the first in a three part series, is the graphic and terrifying novel by Luke Duffy and available now.

Mankind is on the brink of extinction. A deadly plague sweeps the globe like a tsunami causing the dead to rise and prey on the living. '' When there' s no more room in Hell' ' is a horror/action set in a post apocalyptic world filled with suspense, drama, humour, grief and action.

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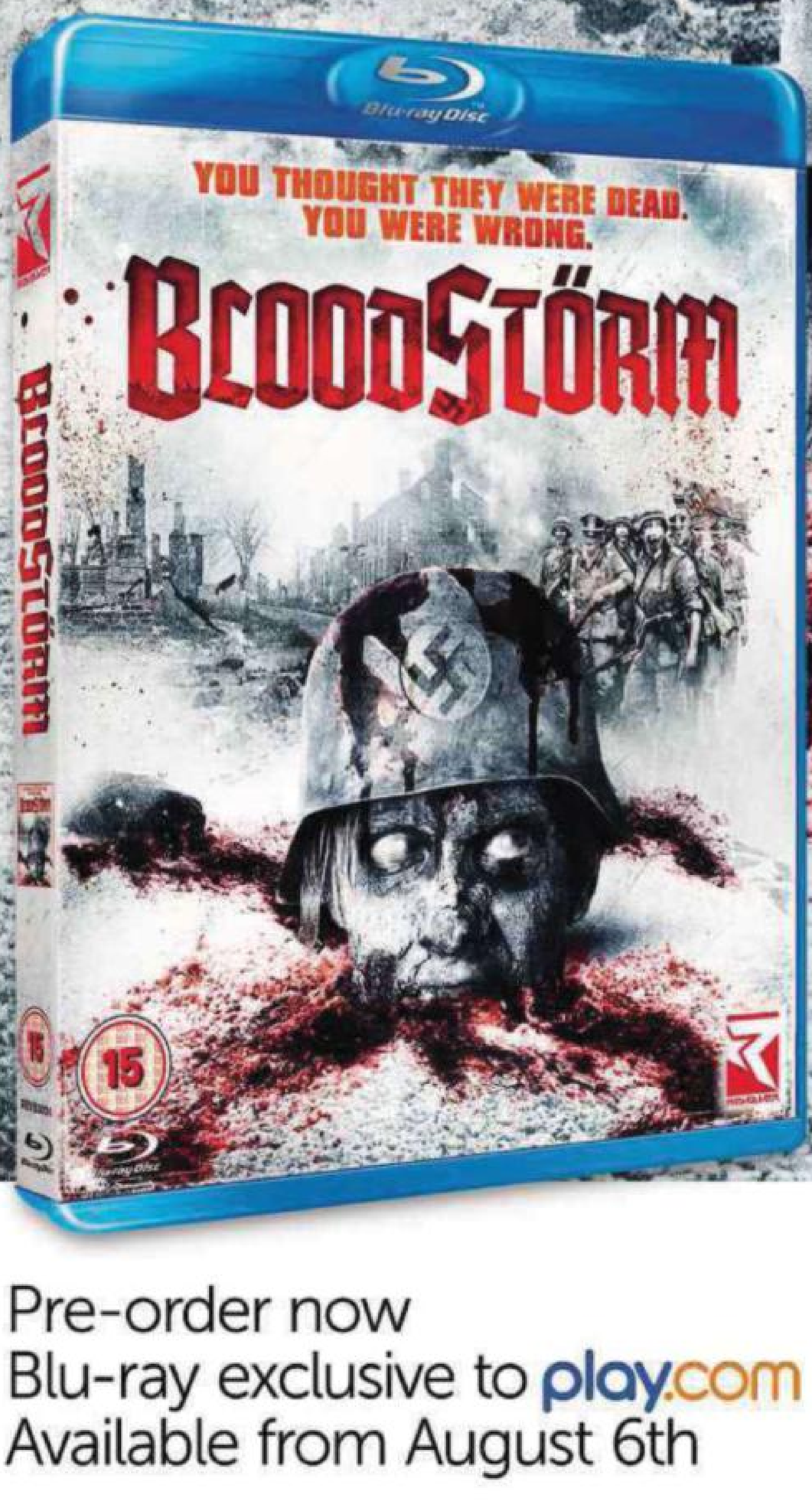

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